GLOBAL CONNECT
International Outlook Expands Horizons for ODU Community
When you are on the campus of Old Dominion University, you never want for beautiful scenery. A special treat are the views of the Elizabeth and Lafayette rivers at the western and eastern edges of the campus. For many, the premier spot for enjoying this natural beauty is at Whitehurst Hall overlooking the Elizabeth River. Directly behind the hall are a two-net volleyball sand pit, a gazebo and pier. This photo of the riverfront area at sunset was taken a few years ago as part of a Norfolk landscape series by ODU software engineer and amateur photographer Matthew Sullivan. Whitehurst, constructed in 1983, consists of two six-story towers where nearly 600 freshmen reside each year.
From the Editor

I had the good fortune to be an American Field Service summer exchange student to West Germany while I was in high school, and the experience was a life-changer for a lad from Small Town U.S.A. I expected my new family and surroundings in West Berlin to be very different from what I was accustomed to back home. I was only half right.

So much about the divided city of Berlin was startling. The infamous Wall and “no-man’s land.” The soldiers with automatic rifles who sneered at me – did I really look that American? – when I rode the S-Bahn train through the heavily guarded stops in East Berlin. I was surprised, as well, by what was put before me on the dining room table, such as pickled fish and eel stewed in a white sauce.

But many revelations of my first few weeks in Berlin came not from differences, but from similarities. So much about these people I was meeting, mostly Germans but with a few Turks, Swedish, Italians and Austrians included, seemed not so exotic after all. I wrote in my diary that the people I was meeting were no more different from me than my cousins who lived in the U.S. Midwest, a thousand miles away from my hometown in Danville, Va. Travel and the intermingling of nationalities teach us that people are of one species, sharing common needs and wants, and remarkably able (and eager) to communicate, even when formal language stands in the way.

So I am pleased to present in this issue of Monarch a package of articles and pictures that describe ODU’s “Global Connections.” This will be an editorial section that will appear in each issue of the magazine this year. I think you will be pleased, and perhaps surprised, to find just how extensive the global reach of this university is, and how faculty and administrators plan to extend that reach.

That summer in Berlin also marked my introduction to wine. Although what I drank was weak liebfraumilch, I found it to be an intriguing beverage. Years later, this would lead to a wine-writing hobby – which includes the Humble Steward column in The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk. I point this out because this issue of Monarch also includes my article about the Eagle Eye wines that alum Bill Wolf and his wife, Roxanne, are producing in Napa Valley. I think you could say that producing this issue was a labor of love for me.

-Jim Raper
Team Tidewater members from ODU and Hampton University worked through the summer constructing Unit 6 Unplugged, the team’s entry in the Solar Decathlon competition.

PHOTO: GLEN MCCLURE

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Illustration: Sam Hundley
Big Blue’s Humble Origins

It was with a great deal of pleasure and fond memories that I read Steve Daniel’s “Then & Now” column about Big Blue (Monarch, Fall 2011). I would like to offer a little more history concerning the start of ODU’s mascot. I had just joined the ODU admissions staff in 1971. A small number of us from the late ’60s who were avid basketball fans were starting to meet, trying to form a booster club. We decided our first fundraiser would be to sell T-shirts. The problem was what to put on the shirts. About that same time, a new radio play-by-play announcer for WTAR started calling the basketball team “Big Blue.” He had been at UT Knoxville and had used a Big Orange label there. Although we had been Monarchs since our independence from William and Mary, there was no mascot persona. I volunteered to contact a friend, Dan Downing, who was a graphic artist at a bank. Using Webster’s dictionary as a start, I looked up “monarch” and saw references to lions and butterflies. The choice seemed easy. Dan developed a drawing of the head of a lion with a large mane and crown. Big Blue was born. Our small group met with Jim Jarrett and got permission to proceed. Shirts were ordered with the Big Blue design and we even sold a few, but much to our surprise, the university decided to purchase a mascot costume. I don’t think any of us thought it would go that far, but like many things in our history, we started with a simple idea and made something great – Big Blue, Mascot of the Year.

Tom Powell ’68, (M.S.Ed. ’74)
Former ODU director of admissions
Greenville, N.C.

About Big Blue’s beginning: I worked in Student Affairs and with another secretary had to go all over the area trying to find something blue to use for Big Blue’s mane. (Yes, the costume did arrive orange and yellow.) We finally went to a bath section of a store and purchased blue bathroom rugs – the fluffy type – and we carefully took the mane off the head and cut the rugs into the same shapes and then we stapled the new blue mane onto the head. As a matter of fact, I accidentally stapled my finger while doing it!

Leigh Comsudis
ODU Office of the Vice President, Administration and Finance

More about the Strip

I love the new magazine, and the new football team! And I thought I’d write about some of the old haunts my friends and I used to hit (“Then & Now,” Monarch, Spring 2011). No. 1 was Friar Tuck’s. I even had a bumper sticker to put on the first brand-new vehicle I ever bought when I graduated. That place just rocked. But don’t forget Charlie’s which had a cool frat and sorority crowd and strong drinks by the bartender Tomato. Arthur’s had good pizza and a relaxing deli-style atmosphere. Batterson’s was an elongated pub, with huge mugs of beer. And Chandelier’s had the biggest, cheapest and best pizzas in all of Norfolk! Large, one-topping for $4.99. Man, those were the days!

Derek Sapp ’95
Milford, Del.

Surfer-Photographer Stewart Ferebee

First, Monarch magazine is full of good reads. Also, I have information that may be of interest to Stewart Ferebee for his proposed book on surfing at Virginia Beach (Monarch, Fall 2011). My friend and fraternity brother, Bob Gormly ’62, was a Virginia Beach surfer in the earlier days of surfing there. Bob was attracted to the Navy Seals by a young Seal he met while surfing in the afternoons. Bob spent a career in the Navy, received the Silver Star for heroism and many other combat awards, and rose to be a Navy captain whose last duty station was in the Pentagon, working on the staff of CNO. His memoir “Combat Swimmers” tells stories of surfing at Virginia Beach in his school days at Virginia Beach High School and later at ODU. If Stewart has not yet contacted Bob for information about those early days of surfing, he might find it interesting to do that.

Bernie Kirsch ’64
Former president, ODU Alumni Association
Portsmouth

“Tyler’s Mountain Magic”

I wanted to thank you for the fine article about my book, “Tyler’s Mountain Magic.” The book has been doing very well with sales, having cracked the top 100 in three different Amazon categories in both paperback and Kindle versions. Also, I recently received a huge endorsement from Frank Deford, author of 16 books, six-time U.S. Sportswriter of the Year, and a member of the National Sportswriters Hall of Fame. He also is an HBO sports analyst and has a weekly show on National Public Radio. It was quite an honor to have him write to me about my book, so I’m hoping things will keep building.

Malcolm Ater ’75
Shepherdstown, WV.

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

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from the turbulence of the late ’60s, when many students expressed their opposition to the Vietnam War through speeches, marches and demonstrations, to today’s calmer times, college campuses have been the setting for various forms of protest and activism.

The first Vietnam War protest at ODU occurred on Oct. 15, 1969, when nearly 800 students and faculty members held a rally outside Webb Center. Then, in the spring of 1970, responding to the U.S. invasion of Cambodia on April 30 and the May 4 shootings at Kent State, a few hundred students staged a weeklong series of protests, which included a march to the Administration Building and a 24-hour memorial vigil.

When ODU’s Campus Americans for Democratic Action organization read a list of demands to President James Bugg, who had been in the job less than a year, the president suggested that CADA share them with the Student Government Association (SGA) as the official voice of the students.

While Bugg may not have given the students the response they wanted – and further indicated that he would not support a strike or a boycott of classes – he told a Mace & Crown reporter: “I think that as long as an assembly is one that doesn’t disrupt the campus, I think that it’s good to have students show this kind of concern in this way.”

Bugg no doubt was more pleased, however, when a very different kind of protest began bubbling up on the young campus at about the same time. In early 1970, after it was learned that Gov. Mills Godwin’s proposed state funding for ODU came back $8 million below Bugg’s request of $23 million for the biennium, both faculty and students became stirred up.

The Faculty Senate organized the Committee to Save the University. Designed to win public support, the group solicited $5 donations from fellow faculty members and suggested that students ask their parents to write their legislators. The SGA was quick to jump on board. As James Sweeney, associate professor emeritus of history, recalled in his 1980 history of the school, “Old Dominion University: A Half Century of Service”: “The Student Government Association, under President John Sasser, organized a massive publicity effort.” The faculty committee, along with some students, rented 28 billboards between Norfolk and Richmond, and printed 5,000 bumper stickers with the message “Save ODU … Write Now!”

Even the homecoming theme changed that year – from “A Time for Love” to “A Time for a Fair Appropriation.” A few weeks later, a group of students, led by political science professor Robert Stern, traveled to Richmond to talk with legislators. Locally, they handed out bumper stickers and sold T-shirts with the image of a shoe print stomping on the letters ODU. They later returned to the State Capitol with petitions signed by 3,515 taxpayers, seeking fair
funding for the school, which had gained university status only one year earlier.

In the end, the efforts — which, of course, also largely included those undertaken by Bugg and other ODU administrators to sway the governor and legislators — paid off. The House Appropriations Committee allotted an additional $1.6 million to Old Dominion in its final budget.

Years later, world events would trigger another sizable demonstration on the campus. In November 1979, a reported 500 students, faculty and staff members gathered to stage a peaceful protest against the seizure of the American Embassy in Iran and the resulting hostage crisis. Mike Gooding, editor of The Mace & Crown at the time (now WVEC-TV military reporter), wrote: “Unlike college protests of a decade ago, there was no anti-government sentiment at last week’s rally. Rather, these protestors sang ‘God Bless America,’ ‘The Star-Spangled Banner,’ and waved the American flag.”

The following year, students vented their frustrations about an entirely different matter, and one much closer to home. Students protested to an increase in parking fees, against the backdrop of what the students perceived as inadequate and poorly maintained parking lots on campus. In late February 1980, the Student Senate, led by Student Body President Gordon McDougall, sponsored a three-day “park-in.”

Dana Burnett, the longtime ODU dean of students (now professor of higher education in the Darden College), characterized the park-in as more of a stunt than a protest.

“They were ticked off that there were so many potholes in the streets and parking lots on campus, and they thought they shouldn’t have to pay a fee for parking. So they had a park-in and encouraged students to park on the grass on campus. It was a very controlled event. It was announced in advance; they told the chief of police, who oversaw parking back then; and they expected to get ticketed, which they were. Then they burned the tickets. It was all orchestrated, almost theater. But they made their point, and I admired their creativity.”

Burnett also remembers a smaller student protest in the late 1970s, when Student Body President Ricky Adams, unannounced, led a group of students into the room where the Board of Visitors was meeting to vote on a tuition increase.

“Ricky and the others from the student government thought that ODU students ought to have some voice — not necessarily a decision-making voice — but an opportunity to at least comment on something as important as a tuition increase. It was a polite protest. He came in, asked to speak, said his piece and they left.”

And then the board proceeded to vote for the increase, Burnett said. “But Ricky made his point.”

Today’s students are expressing themselves through the statewide organization Virginia21, a student-led group. The ODU chapter of Virginia21 was recognized as the best in the state for the 2010-11 school year.

Former ODU chapter president Brittany Burns, who graduated in 2010, said ODU members made many trips to Richmond to lobby and meet with other students to discuss the future of higher education in Virginia. Waylin Ross, a senior political science major, was selected as student chairman of Virginia21 by a body of students representing each individual community college and public, four-year institution in the state.

“It’s truly nonpartisan,” Ross said of the organization. “Virginia21 brings together Democrats, Republicans, independents and non-voters, all working together for the general goal of being the voice of a young generation.”

Ross said it couldn’t be more important today for a group like Virginia21 to exist. “It’s always a question of how much money is available for higher education. Our job is to convince legislators that it is worth funding, and funding well.”

At the start of the fall 2011 semester, a sizable group of ODU student leaders from both sides of the political spectrum — including those involved in both Virginia21 and the SGA — engaged in a letter-writing campaign to the governor to highlight funding issues at ODU and to urge his consideration and support when preparing the state budget. The missives were not form letters sent via email, but hand-written requests from individual students — some including personal stories — making a case for adequate funding for their university.

Elizabeth Kersey, ODU’s assistant to the president for government relations, and Don Stansberry, interim dean of students, had put the nonpartisan student leaders group together last spring in response to a request from some of the students asking for ways they could become more involved in supporting the university. Kersey said she knew the letter-writing campaign had been successful when she got a call from the governor’s office saying that they had received 265 letters and assuring her that the governor had definitely “gotten the message.”

“I wholeheartedly support students engaging in grass-roots activities,” Kersey said. “This is a terrific way to demonstrate their interest and at the same time see the impact they can have. It’s real-world experience.”

Burnett said he believes student protests are part of the fabric of the college experience, whether the causes come down on the liberal or conservative side of the equation.

“Here, it’s been fun to kind of observe the students testing their constitutional rights, finding ways to voice their opinions. I’m proud of the way our students have learned to do that over the years in different ways. Some have not physically protested, but have written letters to editors or joined organizations that seemed to support their views.”

It is, Burnett opines, all part of the learning process.
Meet the Academic Deans
Recent Appointments Complete the Lineup in ODU’s Seven Colleges

Old Dominion’s lineup of academic deans was set late last year with the appointment of Charles Wilson as dean of the College of Arts and Letters. Wilson, a University Professor of English who had served as interim dean of the college since August 2010, was selected after a national search. He was the third of the university’s seven academic deans to be appointed in 2011, the others being Shelley Mishoe, dean of the College of Health Sciences, and Gilbert Yochum, dean of the College of Business and Public Administration.

Charles Wilson, dean of the College of Arts and Letters. A member of the ODU faculty since 1991, Wilson developed an extraordinary reputation as a teacher, and was named a State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award winner in 2004. He is an expert in African American and Southern literatures, and the recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities grants, including one for a summer institute at Harvard University. Along with his background in instruction comes experience in higher education administration. At ODU, he has served as chair of the Department of English, vice provost for undergraduate studies and dean of University College. In 2005-06 he was an American Council of Education Fellow. Wilson’s Ph.D. is from the University of Georgia.

Gilbert Yochum, dean of the College of Business and Public Administration. A University Professor of economics, Yochum served as interim dean for nine months before getting the job in March 2011. His appointment followed a national search. Yochum, who joined ODU in 1975, is well known in Virginia for his work directing ODU’s Economic Forecasting Project and his service on the Governor’s Advisory Board of Economists. He also has been an economic consultant for more than 50 companies and government agencies, and has authored more than 80 journal publications and research monographs. His Ph.D. in economics is from West Virginia University.

Shelley Mishoe, dean of the College of Health Sciences. Before being appointed to the ODU post in May 2011 following a national search, Mishoe served for more than 30 years on the faculty of the Medical College of Georgia; 1988-2000 as chair of the Department of Respiratory Therapy; 2001 as associate dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences; 2001-09 as interim dean and dean of the school; and 2010 as the college’s associate provost for Academic Strategic Initiatives. She is the author of 18 book chapters and more than 60 other research publications on respiratory care and critical thinking in the clinical setting. She has also been an investigator on research grants and contracts totaling almost $7 million. Her Ph.D. in adult education is from the University of Georgia.

David Metzger, dean of the Honors College. An ODU faculty member since 1993 and former chair of the Department of English, Metzger founded the Writing Tutorial Service and directed the Jewish Studies Program (2000-07). His teaching and research have focused on the history of rhetoric, Bible as literature, Jewish studies, composition and pedagogy, psychoanalytic theory and medieval literature. His Ph.D. is from the University of Missouri. Metzger became the Honors College dean in 2008 after the retirement of Louis Henry, who was named dean when the college was created in 1997. The college offers qualified students a four-year program that features the best aspects of both a large-university education and a small-college experience.
University Names New Chief of Police

Rhonda L. Harris, a public safety professional with more than 25 years’ experience, most recently as chief of police at Rutgers University New Brunswick, has been selected as Old Dominion University’s new police chief. Her appointment, effective Feb. 13, was announced by ODU Chief Operating Officer David F. Harnage.

“Chief Harris possesses a wealth of metropolitan university policing experience, which will enable her to hit the ground running at Old Dominion University,” Harnage said. “Her strong leadership skills, knowledge of the intricacies of campus safety, and successful collaborations with municipal colleagues will provide a strong cornerstone for ODU’s continual efforts to enhance campus safety.”

Added ODU President John R. Broderick, “The role of police chief at a metropolitan research university requires a distinctive set of skills and abilities to handle its unique challenges and promote its opportunities. Chief Harris has a proven track record of success and I know the city and ODU community join me in welcoming her.”

As director of public safety and chief of police, Harris will oversee a campus safety force of nearly 130 police officers, security guards and civilian personnel. Public safety services include emergency response, crime prevention programs, 24-hour campus-wide patrols and safety escort services. Additionally, she will be responsible for directing the university’s emergency preparedness and response operations.

“It’s a great time to be joining Old Dominion University,” noted Harris. “The university is growing and seeking to expand its impact in the local community, as well as in the broader arena of academia. I was impressed by the level of enthusiasm for the institution and the camaraderie displayed by the ODU community.”

Since 2006, Harris had served as chief of police at Rutgers University New Brunswick, the flagship campus of the State University of New Jersey, which is comprised of more than 42,000 students on five individual campuses within the main campus. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in public administration from Rutgers, and a master’s degree in forensic psychology from John Jay College.

Harris replaces Chief Rudolph Burwell, who retired in June 2011 after a 40-year law enforcement career. George Votava had been serving as interim chief of police.
LEARNING COMMONS

‘Hitting the Books’ Gets a Makeover

PHOTOS BY GLEN MCCLURE

The Learning Commons accommodates all learning styles - whether a student needs a separate study space with laptop connections or a larger area where students pull together furniture and specialized equipment to collaborate as a group.
The Learning Commons, a state-of-the-art collaborative educational space, opened in the newly enlarged Perry Library in Fall 2011, and already it’s a hit with students. By mid-semester, more than 1,000 visitors a day were taking advantage of the learning tools – from technological aids to tutoring – that the facility offers.

University Librarian Virginia O’Herron believes that the Learning Commons presents a wonderful opportunity for ODU’s students and faculty. “Bringing together library, information technology and campus academic support services, it offers new and collaborative learning experiences in an exciting new space,” she said. David Metzger, dean of the ODU Honors College and interim dean of academic enhancement, said the Learning Commons provides ODU students not only with places to study, but also the resources to learn how to study. The facility is jointly operated by University Libraries, Academic Enhancement and the Office of Computing and Communications Services.

WHAT’S NEW ABOUT THIS?

▲ Open 24 hours Sunday through Thursday; Friday, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (ODU students, faculty and staff only anytime between midnight and 8 a.m.)

▲ Team-based and flexible furniture - build your own study space

▲ Traditional workspaces

▲ Consolidated Help Desk for reference services, instruction and tutorials, equipment loans

▲ Presentation Room allows students to practice class presentations; recording equipment available for review and critiques

▲ Collaboration Rooms: six with 4-5 seats, plus one with 8-10 seats. Each room has a flat panel TV, laptop hookup and a computer

▲ 6 high-end Windows-based media computers

▲ 6 dual-monitor GIS workstations with Google Earth

▲ Multimedia room with 12 high-end Macs and sound booth

▲ Coordinated with Math and Science Resource Center and Writing Tutorial Services

▲ Einstein Bros. Bagels Express with indoor and outdoor seating
With his white coveralls on and his hair tucked under a gauze beret, Seth Berl (right) is taking measurements with electronic calipers in the “clean room” of the Nuclear and Particle Physics High Bay laboratory at Old Dominion University. This may look like a scene from a sci-fi movie, but there is nothing make-believe about the project he is working on – building a component that will be used in the $300 million upgrade of the Jefferson Lab atom smasher in Newport News.

And he’s only a sophomore.

Lauren Mahan (above) is a sophomore at ODU, too, and she has already completed a semester of research under the tutelage of a professor of industrial/organizational psychology. Lauren’s claim to fame so far: she has designed her own study to test whether lessons in positive thinking can help the performance of underrepresented groups (such as women) in science and technology fields. Her theory is that there is such a thing as “positive marginality.”

These are just two of hundreds of ODU undergraduates who have had faculty-mentored research experiences in recent semesters. The exact number of undergraduates involved in research each year is hard to nail down because some students receive research course credit over multiple semesters, and many students work on faculty mentored research projects as an extracurricular activity that is not connected to a credited course.

Total enrollment of undergraduates in individual or capstone research courses during the fall 2010, spring 2011 and summer 2011 sessions was 1,022. During that same period, there were 158 undergraduates doing research paid for by external grants.

The College of Sciences, of which Berl and Mahan are a part, has the largest group of undergraduates conducting this sanctioned research. During the 2010-11 school year, the enrollment in individual or capstone research courses in sciences totaled 537. Next came the College of Arts and Letters with 328 and the Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology with 121.

Berl’s presence at ODU shows how undergraduate research opportunities can help recruit outstanding students. A resident of Williamsburg who was a star student, tennis player and musician at Jamestown High School, Berl also attended the Governor’s School for Science and Technology in Hampton, part of the New Horizons Regional Education Centers. As a high school intern, he worked at NASA Langley.

“Seth started doing research in our department in the first semester of his first year as part of a research guarantee I offered to a few students we were trying to recruit,” says Gail Dodge, professor of physics and a nuclear experimentalist who is affiliated with Jefferson Lab. She was also chair of the department when Berl decided to come to ODU, and has long been a champion of undergraduates who want to do research.

She calls Berl a “huge asset” to the
department’s drift chamber project, which is the construction of a giant detector that will be used to interpret the results of atomic-particle collisions generated by the Jefferson Lab accelerator. “He is only in his second year now, but we are really relying on him to help us with setting up a data acquisition and tracking system to test our drift chambers. He is actually doing his senior thesis this year.”

Dodge noted that three other undergraduates also are working on the drift chamber project.

Berl was only halfway through high school when he began to consider ODU. “While I was working at NASA during my junior and senior years of high school, I quickly realized the wonderful collaboration that ODU has with Jefferson Lab and NASA,” he says. “When it came time to apply to colleges, I reviewed the physics and engineering faculty websites of various colleges, including ODU. I concluded that ODU would provide me with the best opportunities for my future endeavors.”

The admissions office at ODU put him in touch with faculty members in physics and engineering, and he quickly got interviews with Dodge, Linda Vahala (Ph.D. ’83), associate dean of engineering, and Charles Sukenik, the professor of physics who has now succeeded Dodge as department chair.

“All of them reinforced what an outstanding university Old Dominion would be for me with respect to science and technology. I was so impressed with the physics and engineering departments that I decided ODU would be the only school I would apply to,” Berl says. “All of my experiences with each and every professor have been very rewarding and all of the faculty members take a special interest in their students. Any student with an interest in science and technology should certainly consider ODU as a top choice.”

Berl, who wants to move on to a nuclear engineering doctoral program after he gets his bachelor’s degree in physics and electrical engineering, adds, “I strongly encourage incoming freshmen to pursue research opportunities as soon as they enter ODU.”

Mahan didn’t come to ODU with undergraduate research in mind, but she was attracted by the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP) that was launched two years ago by the ODU Honors College. The industrial and organizational (I/O) psychology lab of Debra Major, professor of psychology, working under a URAP grant, recruited Mahan in the fall of 2011 and paired her with a member of the Major research group, recent Ph.D. recipient Valerie Morganson. Major’s and Morganson’s research focuses on career barriers, especially those that hamper the educational and professional success of women.

“I could go on forever about how amazing this program is and what a great opportunity it is,” says Mahan. “It will help me in so many ways. It has taught me how to conduct my own research and provided me with the necessary research skills and necessary information to apply for graduate school.” Toward the end of the fall 2011 semester, she was applying for funding to conduct her “positive marginality” research, designed to help women and minorities succeed in math-oriented studies and careers. “I am confident that this research will get published in a journal,” she adds.

Mahan’s goal is to get a Ph.D. in I/O psychology. “Dr. Major and Valerie have been great role models, and I am hoping to follow in their footsteps.”

Major, who designed the URAP in I/O psychology together with faculty colleagues Richard Landers and Konstantin Cigularov, is in charge of two other URAP students other than Mahan. Landers and Cigularov are mentoring seven more. “These undergraduate research apprentices have inspired us all,” Major says. “Their motivation and enthusiasm are infectious.”

Ivan Ash (center) is the assistant professor of psychology who coordinates undergraduate research at ODU, and he has a good reason for doing it. His career path in cognitive psychology was set by a professor who invited him to do undergraduate research. When the ODU Honors College created the position of director of undergraduate research in 2010, Ash was quick to apply. He now divides his time between the undergraduate research program and his work in the psychology department.

With him are senior Allison Joiner (left) and junior Amanda Sokolsky who won first place in the 13th Annual Tidewater Student Research Poster Session in November.

“Undergraduate research helps with student retention, academic achievement, employability and competitiveness for graduate school,” Ash says. “By expanding undergraduate research opportunities at ODU, we are making sure that our top students will be prepared for an increasingly competitive job market and be able to participate in America’s growing knowledge-based economy.”
From a truant to top student, Devon Taylor is on a health care mission

To see Devon Taylor today wearing the white lab coat and dapper bow tie as he chats with his mentors at Old Dominion University, it’s hard to believe that 12 years ago he was a teenaged truant living in the slums of Flint, Mich.

“I had a grade point average of 1.06,” he says with a grimace, as if the memory still hurts.

Taylor attended an alternative high school that, by his own description, was for “truants, outcasts and rabble rousers.” When he did show up for classes, he enjoyed math and science, and this made him think he might try college. But his mother put a stop to that talk. “She told me I wasn’t focused, and she was right. I didn’t know what I was doing. I was pretty hopeless. I was being threatened with eviction and had no idea where the money could come from for me to go to college.”

Fresh off a 2011 internship at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Taylor is in the final semester of the bachelor’s concentration in public health at ODU’s College of Health Sciences. He has a perfect, 4.0 GPA and feels confident about acing his remaining courses. Medical school is next up and he has his sights set on some of the best – Johns Hopkins and Harvard are his first choices.

But to fully appreciate how Taylor got to where he is today, we must return to the troubled teen who left his hometown, not for college, but for the U.S. Navy. It didn’t take the Navy long to identify him as a technology whiz kid. He tested into the nuclear power program and eventually would be given key supervisory jobs on nuclear-powered ships, including the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman.

“The Navy reconstituted my sense of hope,” Taylor says. “My self-confidence was rebuilt.”

In the back of his mind throughout the Navy experience, however, was a long-standing dream to be a physician. He wanted to deliver health care to the less fortunate, to people such as the neighbors he remembered from Flint who didn’t see a doctor very often and were uncomfortable with the interaction when they did.

His participation in Navy relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 only made him more determined to realize the dream.

So when Taylor left the Navy in 2009 he enrolled in ODU’s College of Health Sciences.

“I felt old, like I had to make up time,” he says, laughing. “I wanted to get my bachelor’s degree in three years and the people here have done everything they can to help me. The personal attention I have gotten here has meant a lot to me.”

Jacqueline Sharpe ’97, the director of the college’s health sciences bachelor’s program, took Taylor under her wing early on. “From the day I met him, he has expressed a most sincere desire to help people as a health care professional,” she says. “That sincerity has been present in his written and oral work. He has outstanding people skills and his desire to become a doctor is genuine.”

In addition to his 21-hour course loads, Taylor also volunteered for 18 months at All Heart Home Health and Hospice Agency in Norfolk, and arranged to shadow two different surgeons for a total of eight months.

Ann Marie Kopitzke ’02, an adviser and lecturer in the bachelor’s program at the College of Sciences, says, “It’s not enough to be good at the academics. You have to have heart, and Devon does.”

Sharpe agrees. She says that some students who have 4.0 averages have a narrow, book-learning idea of what education is. “Devon has many great traits other than just being a master of knowledge,” she adds, and she believes his selfless desire to help humanity is one of them. “It will be that kind of passion that will lead him to greatness. It has been an

He Blends ‘Heart’ with Smarts

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That passion led Taylor to spend many hours pursuing a 2011 summer internship with help from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Leadership Alliance Early Identification Program. “I chose the program at Hopkins because it was directly related to one of my interests in medicine - pulmonary and critical care medicine,” Taylor says. “I also chose it because Johns Hopkins has an established history of addressing public health concerns, specifically those diseases that have risk factors associated with socioeconomic disparity.”

His 10-week summer internship – 12 interns were picked from 1,000 applicants – was spent conducting research at the Johns Hopkins Asthma and Allergy Center. The work was part of a study of genetic causes for a group of skin diseases, the most serious of which can turn deadly when a person who suffers from it gets a smallpox vaccination. One goal of this line of research is the development of an alternative vaccination for high-risk patients.

The Hopkins intern program is funded by the NIH and is geared toward undergraduates from underrepresented and/or disadvantaged backgrounds who are pursuing a career in biomedical sciences. Dr. Larissa Shimoda, the program’s director, says Taylor “really stood out” among the applicants. He really does have “heart,” Shimoda adds. “Not just the heart to withstand challenges and come out on top, but also in the sense of being a compassionate person. Increasing diversity in the biomedical sciences is an issue that concerns many institutions, and lack of diversity can be a barrier to quality health care in underprivileged communities. Devon is the kind of individual who can make a real impact in this area.”

Dr. Kathleen Barnes, the Hopkins faculty member who mentored Taylor, was eager, as well, to praise him: “I could never say enough positive about Devon.” She also called Taylor a team player, “clearly demonstrating a keen sense of appreciation for those around him, regardless of rank and status. I am confident Devon will go far in our field, and his life’s lessons combined with his passion for learning will no doubt propel him to a fulfilling career in medicine.”

Likemost students, Angel Henderson, Gregory Rogers, Darius Moore and Raqwon Perryman had to adjust to life in college, where one needs to be able to work independently to complete the tasks each day brings. Not only have these four strong students learned how to cope with college life, but they’ve also developed an online tool to help other students with the same challenges they face.

The students, two engineers, an IT major and a sociology major, have created an app called College TA, which is billed as “the next generation of college planners.”

The app, which can be downloaded free from Apple, is more than a simple scheduler; it helps students manage not only the demands of school, but also other tasks in their daily lives. Students can use the app to organize courses, homework, extracurricular activities, job schedules, social commitments and the rest of the items on their “to-do” list.

For Henderson, a Gates Millennium Scholar, that was the challenge the group set out to solve - produce an app that would help students with more than just their academics.

“We are all currently working. Like most students, our biggest concern is time management,” said Henderson, a mechanical engineering graduate student from Bronx, N.Y. “It’s easy to make a time management app. We wanted College TA to do so much more.”

The four ODU entrepreneurs have formed their own company, ArcDNA, to create more products that are easy to use and help students succeed. Moore, a senior information technology major from Chesterfield, Va., said each of them brings different strengths to the company. He developed the technology platform for the app. Rogers, a mechanical engineering senior from Virginia Beach, assisted in the development, design and layout of the app. And Perryman, from Killeen, Texas, who is pursuing a second bachelor’s degree in sociology, acts as ArcDNA’s sales and marketing director.

While the smartphone app is available free to download, the students want to partner with businesses near campus, so that they can send promotions to College TA users via the app in exchange for advertising dollars.

College TA has been featured by the Mac App Store as the No. 1 new and noteworthy education app from Apple, and labeled as a “potential lifesaver.” That’s exactly the kind of review the ODU students hoped for when they created it.

-Brendan O’Hallarn
DESEGREGATION IN THE DEEP SOUTH DURING THE 1960s was helped along by many dedicated reformers, but popular accounts of those turbulent times seldom cover the contributions made by mostly upper-class, white judges from states such as Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas who sat at the time on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Anne Emanuel ’67, a professor of law at Georgia State University, in a richly detailed biography, “Elbert Parr Tuttle: Chief Jurist of the Civil Rights Revolution,” has given court-ordered desegregation a new hero. Emanuel clerked for Tuttle, who had been appointed to the Fifth Circuit by Republican President Dwight Eisenhower. For this authorized biography, she also had access to Tuttle’s papers and the opportunity to interview many people who were close to him during the years of the title’s “Civil Rights Revolution.” When Tuttle became the chief judge of the Fifth Circuit in 1960, six years had passed since the Brown v. Board of Education decision, yet little had changed for black Southerners. In landmark cases – about voter registration, school desegregation, access to public transport – Tuttle’s determination to render justice and his swift, decisive rulings neutralized the delaying tactics of diehard segregationists. Emanuel maintains that without the support of federal courts in the Deep South, the promise of Brown might have gone unrealized. Moreover, she makes a convincing argument that without the leadership of Tuttle, the courts of the Fifth Circuit might not have met the challenge. Tuttle, who had been born in California and raised in Hawaii, settled in Atlanta as a young lawyer and quickly began to actively oppose racial segregation and segregationists among Democratic Party leaders. He helped to build the Republican Party of Georgia and was instrumental in getting Eisenhower the GOP presidential nomination in 1952. Once on the Fifth Circuit Court, he joined with other Republicans, including John Minor Wisdom of Louisiana, and progressive Democrats in reshaping the Jim Crow South. “Emanuel knew the judge, has mined his working papers, and writes with a sure feel for this modest man who cast such a large shadow over his adopted South,” wrote reviewer Dennis J. Hutchison of the University of Chicago Law School. The biography, published by University of Georgia Press, is part of the series Studies in the Legal History of the South.

Connie Sage ’90 is the author of “Frank Batten: The Untold Story of the Founder of the Weather Channel.” Batten, the founder of Landmark Communications, was the first rector of Old Dominion University’s Board of Visitors and a generous supporter of the university.

Sage is a longtime reporter and editor for The Virginian-Pilot who later served on the corporate staff of Landmark.

The book is the untold story of a man whose name few recognize outside Hampton Roads, yet who helped change the face of the media in the 20th century. Frank Batten Sr. (1927-2009) created the Weather Channel in 1982, despite skeptics in the media who thought there was a very limited audience for around-the-clock weather broadcasts. The network, and its website, Weather.com, became the largest in the media who thought there was a very limited audience for around-the-clock weather broadcasts.

Batten was a media pioneer whose Virginia newspaper was the only major daily to back school integration.

Starting out in his uncle’s newspaper business in Norfolk as a reporter and advertising salesman, Batten assumed leadership of The Virginian-Pilot and Ledger-Star at the age of 27 and grew Landmark into a media powerhouse. As chairman of the Associated Press from 1982-87, he helped guide the news agency back on a sound financial footing.

Batten, who was an ODU supporter for nearly five decades, gave the university $32 million in 2003, which is the largest gift in university history. Altogether, he and his wife, Jane, gave away more than $400 million to charity, nearly all of it to education.

His long relationship with Old Dominion began in 1955 when he served as a member of the Advisory Board to the Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary. He supported its campaign to become an independent college and in 1962, became the first rector of the newly independent Old Dominion College. In 1972, the university’s Batten Arts and Letters Building was dedicated in his honor, and the College of Engineering and Technology was named for him in 2003.

The Batten family support of ODU continues. Frank Batten Jr. is a former rector and current member of the ODU Board of Visitors.

“Silenced.” By Kia Dupree ’02. In this portrait of life on the wrong side of K Street in Washington, D.C., Tinka and her mother, Nicola, give dual views in alternate chapters. Nicola’s anger and pain are described, as well as the confusion and wonder of teenage Tinka, who’s attracted to the dangerous Nine. Nicola wants a better life for her daughter, and fights to protect her. The gritty tale received positive reviews from The Library Journal and Publisher’s Weekly. “This novel is the real deal. Folks seeking a title for an urban book club need look no further. Its inner city realism compares favorably with Sister Souljah’s ‘The Coldest Winter Ever’ and Sapphire’s ‘Push.’ This is easily one of my top-five fiction books of 2011. Buy it...promote it,” wrote the Library Journal reviewer. Dupree is also the author of “Damaged.”
applied experimental psychology. He edited the “Handbook,” was the sole author of one chapter and a co-author of another. Other authors with connections to ODU’s Department of Psychology are master’s graduates Kelli England Will and Cynthia Sabo, doctoral graduate Krystall Dunaway and doctoral candidates Kristie Johnson and Jennifer May.

“A Dictionary of Bible Plants.”
By Lytton John Musselman, ODU Mary Payne Hogan Professor of Botany.

Cambridge University Press has published this new book from Musselman, an expert in the plants of the Holy Land. It describes and illustrates each plant mentioned in the Old and New Testament and the Apocrypha. Also, the author identifies plants mentioned in controversial biblical passages. “Here, finally, we have a definitive and informative treatment of the plants of the Bible, both small and large,” wrote reviewer Ben Witherington III of Ashbury Theological Seminary.

“Basketball for Women.”
By Nancy Lieberman ’80.

The ODU All-American shares skills and tips that allowed her to reach the pinnacle of the sport. This new edition covers shooting technique, defense, passing and training. Lieberman includes examples of her experience as a player, coach and broadcaster to demonstrate how a good player can become a complete player. The book includes advice about developing a winning attitude and playing as part of a team. Lieberman led the Lady Monarchs to AIAW National Championships in 1979 and 1980. She was the first two-time winner of the prestigious Wade Trophy, a national player of the year award in college women’s basketball. After playing and coaching in professional women’s basketball, she was named coach of the Texas Legends in the NBA Development League, becoming the first woman to coach a professional men’s basketball team. She is a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame and the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame.

“Victoria Stories.”
By Jenean Hall (M.S.Ed. ’82).

One doesn’t have to be from Victoria, Va., to enjoy reading this collection of everyday-life stories set in the author’s hometown, mostly in the 1950s and 1960s. No plot is proposed, yet the stories amount to a coherent tale about the innocence of postwar America, and the traditions – some good and some not so good – that people clung to in a small Southern town just prior to the social upheaval and equality strides that began at the end of the 1960s.

At Vaughan’s grocery, an occasional promotion invited customers to cut a wedge of cheese from a huge round; if the wedge weighed exactly a pound, it was free. The Western Auto down the street was not just auto parts; the author bought her record albums there and yearned to have the Western Flyer bicycle in the front window. Then there was the Rexall Drug Store, where homemade limeades and milkshakes were specialties of the soda fountain counter.

Today, no American thinks of spaghetti as an exotic dish, but when Hall was a child and her mother came up with a red sauce recipe, it was the talk of the town. Four teenaged boys die in a car crash, and the twisted wreckage is towed to a car shop, where it stays for awhile serving as a reminder of how sweet life is and how deadly a careless moment can be.

Many of the short chapters touch in one way or another on the railroad that was Victoria’s reason
A UV Landing Strip for Bees
Research Could Be a Boon to Pollination

When Lisa Horth was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Davis, before she joined the ODU biological sciences faculty in 2004, she rode a bicycle to work alongside a field of sunflowers. “I saw honeybees pollinating the flowers and wondered if there is natural variation in the way flowers attract the bees and other pollinating insects and birds,” she said.

That kernel of curiosity has sprouted recently into a research project that is producing interesting results.

Horth’s research is especially relevant now because the honeybee population is steadily dropping – for reasons that scientists and beekeepers don’t fully understand – and causing a drag on plant pollination. This pollination, of course, is necessary for the production of fruits and seeds. So, how does ultraviolet light enter into the equation?

Flowers employ a variety of cues to attract pollinators. The bright color of flower petals is an obvious example. But honeybees and other creatures also are attracted by ultraviolet light that some flower petals reflect. This UV light, which humans cannot see, typically acts as a guide – or “airport runway lights,” as Horth describes it – directing the pollinating creature to the flower’s nectar and to the area where pollination can occur. (Flower as bees see it is shown above the flower as humans see it.)

Horth’s recent experiments show there is natural variation in the UV light reflections of flowers, and that the larger the UV reflecting area is, the more likely a bee will arrive to pollinate the flower. Horth and her students have manually augmented or decreased the UV reflecting portions of petals in order to demonstrate the advantage of the high-UV variation.

A potential result of this work would be the genetic engineering of high UV-cue petals in the flowers of food crops. This could assure the pollination of valuable crops even in the presence of decreasing bee populations.

-Jim Raper
Strategic Default on Home Mortgages
Can Impulsive Decisions Be a Drag on Real Estate Markets?

America’s economic recovery depends on a return to health of the housing market. The market has stayed stubbornly below pre-2007 real estate values since the real estate “bubble” popped, delaying the nation’s economic recovery. There have been countless studies done about the economics of the housing market, offering solutions for how to fix things.

But what role does human behavior play in this financial crisis?

That’s a question Michael Seiler, the Robert M. Stanton Chair of Real Estate in Old Dominion University’s College of Business and Public Administration, is attempting to answer.

“There are numerous real estate research centers around the world whose goal it is to examine current issues of national and international relevance to the field,” said Seiler, founder and director of IBERE, the Institute for Behavioral and Experimental Real Estate (www.IBERE.org).

These centers borrow theories from economics and finance to understand current issues, operating on the assumption that real estate markets are fully efficient, and individuals operating in these markets always act rationally. But what if people make impulsive decisions, not grounded in logic?

“At IBERE, we adapt our models to incorporate the knowledge that people have bounded rationality. That is, our brains regularly take mental shortcuts on a subconscious level that sometimes results in flaws or biases in our decision making,” Seiler said.

Since arriving at Old Dominion from Hawaii Pacific University, Seiler has published a number of groundbreaking studies incorporating the human element in real estate decisions, such as the impact of social connections on strategic default - the practice of homeowners walking away from a mortgage they can afford to pay.

Working with Andy Collins, research assistant professor at ODU’s Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center, Seiler has modeled things such as how so-called strategic defaults affect the marketplace at large. This work by Seiler and Collins won a 2011 Governor’s Technology Award in the category of Cross-Boundary Collaboration in Modeling and Simulation.

Seiler has also collaborated with professors in psychology, English and engineering on other research projects, and hopes to continue doing multidisciplinary research.

IBERE’s goal is to find and measure these flaws in decision making and, where possible, suggest ways to correct them. IBERE seeks to be the leading behavioral and experimental real estate research organization in the world and to publish research that will help guide decision making in all areas of real estate - for homeowners, the real estate industry, investors and public policy makers.

“We really don’t know the full extent of the human, behavioral element to this housing and mortgage crisis,” Seiler said. “But if this could be part of the solution to our housing crisis, to help the country’s recovery, that would be ideal.”

–Brendan O’Hallarn

“Our brains regularly take mental shortcuts on a subconscious level that sometimes results in flaws or biases in our decision making.” –Michael Seiler
Two of Sheri Colberg-Ochs’ star “pupils” are featured in videos on WebMD’s website promoting the merits of exercise in managing type 2 diabetes.

The two – Millie Jones and Richard Jones (no relation) – are not Old Dominion students, however, but a staff member and faculty member at the university, respectively, who participated in two of the exercise science professor’s research studies examining the relationship between exercise and its effect on diabetes. The main study of the two was funded by the American Diabetes Association and ran for two and a half years, ending in June 2011.

Both Millie, special assistant to the executive director of housing and residence life, and Richard, a senior lecturer of engineering technology who has taught at ODU since 1994, were filmed on campus for the videos.

Damon Meharg, the video producer for WebMD, asked Colberg-Ochs to suggest participants for the series of videos on diabetes. He found the ODU researcher online through her website (www.shericolberg.com) and the many interviews she has done in relation to her studies and as the author of several books about diabetes.

“I came up with both Richard and Millie for Damon to interview, and both readily agreed,” Colberg-Ochs said. “I picked them in particular because they have been so successful in managing their diabetes through lifestyle improvements – exercise, better food choices, weight loss, etc. – and both have come off of some or all of their diabetes medications as a result.”

Millie, who has worked at ODU for 15 years, said a shoulder injury in 2010 resulting in surgery precluded her from exercising for almost a year. “Coupled with diabetes, which was diagnosed in 2008, I began to gain weight and really felt horrible. I really thought this program could be the ‘jump-start’ necessary to get back into a well-balanced exercise and diet routine. It has been absolutely awesome!”

In the video, Millie, who is 48, talks about having had low self-esteem and low energy levels before she met with Colberg-Ochs and took part in the studies. Millie trimmed down by 20 pounds by adding racquetball, tennis and weights to an exercise regimen of an hour or more on most days. She recently said that her diabetes is almost non-existent. “My numbers are excellent and I’m no longer required to take medication for the condition.”

Like Millie, commitment was the key for Richard, 55, a self-described former “couch potato” whose type 2 diabetes was out of control and putting his life in jeopardy. A major infection caused by diabetes landed him in the ICU at Portsmouth Naval Hospital about six years ago, and he also suffered a mini stroke. In his video, he talks about the decision he realized he had to make if he was to turn his life around. He first made a major change in his eating habits by adopting a heart-healthy diet – one that properly balances proteins and carbohydrates – and then joined Colberg-Ochs’ exercise studies. For the study, Richard started out on the treadmill and later added weight-lifting rotations. “I pushed hard on any exercise which was focused on lower body and back. I targeted these areas because they are the larger muscles and burn sugar at a higher rate,” he explained.

He ultimately built up both his strength and stamina, and today his glucose levels are out of the danger zone. Richard now controls his diabetes without need of insulin injections, which he gave himself daily before he dropped both 60 pounds and an unhealthy lifestyle. Today he is maintaining a weight of 180 pounds and is a lifetime member of Weight Watchers. He also continues to exercise regularly at a local gym.

The diabetes videos are scheduled to be on the WebMD website until September 2012. To view the videos, go to: http://diabetes.webmd.com/h2t-managing-diabetes-11/default.htm#nav. Then 1) click on any of the links (e.g., “fitness tips”), 2) click the orange “continue” button at the bottom of the window, and 3) near the bottom of the next window, you’ll see a title with a video camera icon (e.g., “diabetes and fitness”). Click that link to get to the video windows.

–Steve Daniel

Richard Jones and Millie Jones flank Sheri Colberg-Ochs.
Xu Elected Fellow of AAAS

X. Nancy Xu, professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Old Dominion University, has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), one of the highest honors a scientist can receive.

The award citation states that the distinction, which is bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers, was given to Xu “for distinguished contributions to the fields of nanobiotechnology and ultrasensitive bioanalysis, including single nanoparticle optics, nanobiosensors, single molecule detection and single living cell imaging.”

Xu, who leads one of the largest research groups at ODU, has received $3.5 million in recent grants from the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. Over the past decade she has developed a reputation as a problem solver and innovator in the field of nanomedicine. She has been recognized for her achievements by two of NASA’s NANO 50 awards and by the National Cancer Institute in its publication “Mission to the Inside of a Living Cell.” A DNA biosensor she developed has received a worldwide patent and she has three pending U.S. patents in the field of nanobiotechnology.

‘Tuk in the Arctic’ and other Science Outreach for Children

Science Alliance Live, an outreach project by Old Dominion University faculty aimed at communicating science and technology to children, had its debut presentation on the ODU campus in November. Two interactive plays featuring actors and puppets were staged explaining oceanography research, and numerous other activities were available for the 200 people who attended.

Faculty members Jenifer Alonzo and Stephen Pullen of communication and theatre arts and Amy Adcock of STEM education and professional studies joined with ODU oceanographers Fred Dobbs and Victoria Hill to form the alliance. This effort was made possible by a startup grant from the ODU Office of Research for a project called “Scientific Awareness Through Theatre: Inspiring Young People to Value Scientific Practice as We Adapt to Climate Change.” The team, led by Hill and Alonzo, is seeking external funding to expand the program, which is part of the university’s Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Initiative.

The November presentation included the first showing of two plays by Alonzo. They are about Hill’s climate change research in the Arctic region and Dobbs’ water quality/public health research. “Tuk in the Arctic” invites the audience to help Tuk, a Canadian Inuit working dog, understand the importance of collecting data from sea ice. “Enzo Murray: Science Reporter” challenges the audience to assist Enzo and Dobbs as they navigate confusing media messages while defeating hazardous bacteria found in seawater.

Also at that event, Adcock invited children to play a Web-based children’s game she has developed, and the attendees did simulated research themselves, such as doing core drilling in ice.

Patrick Ball, husband of VMASC staffer D’An Knowles Ball, and Julia Stein, daughter of ODU grant writer Jackie Stein, portray Dobbs and Enzo in the play “Enzo Murray: Science Reporter.”
For Women Athletes Prone to Knee Injuries
New Exercise Regimes and Posture Training Fight ACL Injuries
By Brendan O’Hallarn

Photos by Roberto Westbrook
Through all her years of playing competitive soccer, including four years as a midfielder on the Old Dominion University Lady Monarchs soccer team, Jocelyn Weidner has never had a serious knee injury. “I’ve been lucky,” the Harrisburg, Pa., native says.

Too often, however, it’s a different story for others who play the sport. The statistics are ominous. Female athletes under the age of 25 in sudden-movement sports like soccer and basketball are three times more likely to have a catastrophic, non-contact knee injury – such as a tear of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) – than their male counterparts.

“An ACL tear, that was almost my worst nightmare,” says Weidner, who recently wrapped up her ODU career and is scheduled to graduate in May with a degree in nursing. “I’ve heard stories about how long the recovery is, and all the work you have to do. It’s definitely something I didn’t want to go through.”

Perhaps there was a bit more than “luck” in Weidner’s injury avoidance. Over the past three seasons, only one Lady Monarchs soccer player has sustained a major, non-contact knee injury, and that was one whose knee ligaments were already tenuous. Typically, a women’s team in a sport like soccer or basketball will see one to two such injuries a year.

Steven Morrison, an ODU faculty member who has spent the past few years leading a study centered on the team, believes the research shows a way to cut down on these types of injuries, which can result in both immediate and long-term benefits.

An athlete may never recover the level of pre-injury quickness and strength in the knee joint after a ligament tear, says Morrison, an endowed professor of physical therapy in ODU’s College of Health Sciences.

Also, “If you look long-term, if you look at these female athletes seven or eight years after an ACL injury, a lot of them are starting to develop osteoarthritis. Their knee joint is showing dramatic degeneration. They literally have a knee joint that’s equivalent to that of a 60-year-old person. And long-term, that’s going to curtail their activities.

“It’s the health care costs, the quality of life costs for the remainder of their lives. This is one of the things that people are just understanding. It’s not just fixing them with the surgery and doing some rehab. It’s five, 10 years down the track that they’re having problems.”

When Morrison arrived at Old Dominion in 2006, researchers in the Department of Human Movement Sciences had already been working with ODU women’s soccer players. Using a simulation of a soccer ball moving in different directions, the researchers – James Onate, now at Ohio State, and Nelson Cortes, now at George Mason University – built a biomechanical model of the movements of female athletes.

Morrison and his team used that approach in their design of exercise interventions, things that the female soccer players can do to train their bodies to be less susceptible to these types of injuries.

“For the female athlete, 80 percent of all knee injuries are related to the ACL. It’s one of the greatest risks of playing these sports,” Morrison says.

“We’re not trying to prevent the contact ones, the (New England Patriots quarterback) Tom Brady injuries where you’re standing still and get hit. You can’t avoid that. What we’re doing is preventive.

ODU senior defender Tori Diersen (top) wears sensors applied by human movement sciences researcher Eric Greska (top left) and Mike Samaan, Ph.D. candidate in mechanical engineering, in order to track movements, posture and flexibility in studies to decrease female ACL injuries. Greska and Steven Morrison, professor of physical therapy (right), see immediate and long-term benefits to the studies.
“It’s all about prevention and keeping people physically active, whether they’re an elite athlete, or someone in their 30s or 40s who just wants to keep playing soccer socially on Sunday. You want to prevent injury to keep people physically active."

Human movement sciences doctoral student Eric Greska came to ODU having previously treated athletes with ACL-type injuries, and helping athletes avoid them. Greska was charged with designing an exercise regimen that could help prevent non-contact knee injuries.

“I had been a strength and conditioning coach at the University of West Florida, and that’s the most debilitating injury that I had seen. And it’s sad because we know there are ways to reduce their occurrence; it’s just a matter of having the compliance, and having the ability to put it into action,” Greska says.

Starting in the lab, the ODU researchers conducted biomechanical testing on each Lady Monarchs soccer player, building a three-dimensional skeletal model of each athlete as a baseline. The players did jumps and stops and abrupt cuts as they followed an image of a soccer ball moving in an unanticipated direction.

“This was to mimic the key movements that may actually put them into a position to be at risk of injury. We wanted to try and mimic what they experience on the field,” Greska says.

Then for 10 weeks in the spring, during the off-season for women’s varsity soccer, Greska worked with the players, doing strength and agility drills, helping train them to find body positions that would make them less predisposed to injury. The drills consisted of short sprints, jumps, turns and bends, designed to improve strength, flexibility and posture.

An additional challenge was the time limit imposed on varsity athletes, who can only do organized workouts for a certain number of hours per week. However, that helped the research team tailor its exercise regimen to make it practical and applicable to varsity coaches, Greska says.

“We want to see what effect that intervention program had on their movement quality,” he says. “We also want to do it so it’s functional to these sport-specific coaches — give them something they can actually put into their practices. If it’s another thing that’s going to cut into their schedule, it’s likely to be set aside.”

At the end of the 10-week exercise regimen, the players were tested in the lab again, and Greska said they showed marked improvement in body posture, and in flexibility and movement in the knee, hip and ankle joints. Just as importantly, the players felt the exercise drills working.

“You could tell a difference from the beginning of spring to end of spring. I felt more stable, with better balance,” Weidner said. During the season, she could also hear Greska’s voice in her head, repeating the commands to get back into the “ready” position, with ankles, knees and hips flexed.

“When you’re in that flex position, your body is free to move. When you’re in the upright and locked position, you’re actually in the worst position for your knee,” Greska says.

The ODU researchers are excited about their findings. Morrison said they’d love to share the information with researchers at other schools, in an effort to create a universal knee-injury prevention system.

“It would be great if you could have a multi-center, multi-university study, to see which regimen works best for which sport, and find out what you can do to prevent these injuries.

“That would be the ideal world.”
Help for Endangered Marine Species Comes When ODU Teams Up with the Virginia Aquarium

From Sea Turtles to Eelgrasses

Yearling loggerhead turtles, four of them, each about the size of a dinner plate, have been raised from hatchlings by the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach, and in a few days they are to be set free in the Gulf Stream 30 miles off the coast. But on this warm morning in fall 2011, the feisty creatures have one last contribution to make to science. They have been transported 25 miles into Norfolk to the Marine Biomechanics Lab at Old Dominion University for swimming tests.

Written by Jim Raper
Photography by Roberto Westbrook
“In recent years, the aquarium’s role in research has increased dramatically. In the process, Old Dominion University has emerged as a natural partner.”

–Lynn Clements ’76 (M.S.Ed. ’80), executive director, Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
Researchers involved in this collaboration know that these turtles move around well in the water. Anyone could see that by visiting the aquarium. But, as it happens, loggerheads can hatch on beaches of the southern East Coast, crawl into the water and then not be seen again by humans for seven to 10 years. They mature slowly and don’t return to coastal waters until they are ready to reproduce. “These are the lost years,” explains Ian Bartol, associate professor of biological sciences at ODU. “We really don’t know much at all about how they swim.”

With “how they swim,” Bartol is posing a long list of questions. He is an expert in the biomechanics of marine organisms and his studies focus on stability, maneuverability and propulsion of squid and boxfish. Even the less-than-streamlined marine creatures, his research has shown, can be terrific swimmers. This work has helped Zimmerman, professor of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences at ODU, is the lead investigator on the project and a key collaborator is Mark Swingle, the director of research and conservation for the aquarium. The aquarium’s role will be to construct an outdoor aquaculture facility on its grounds along Owls Creek not far inland from the Atlantic Ocean.

Also last year, the Virginia Aquarium Foundation and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries teamed up to win a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Species Recovery Grant that will involve $4.4 million in support for researchers from the aquarium, ODU and other institutions in Maryland, North Carolina and Florida. ODU’s contribution to this work, which is aimed at assessing the welfare of sea turtles in the Chesapeake Bay, will be directed by Cynthia Jones, Eminent Scholar and professor of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences at ODU. “We really don’t know much at all about how they swim.”

ODU’s Zimmerman, speaking of the eelgrass study, said, “This partnership allows us to combine the university’s strength in basic research with the aquarium’s strength in aquarium operations and husbandry of marine organisms. So we can try to simulate natural environments as faithfully as possible and perform relevant manipulations of potential climate variables such as temperature and carbon dioxide. In addition, proximity to Owls Creek gives us good access to reasonably good water quality. We couldn’t build that sort of aquaculture facility on the Elizabeth River near our campus. The water is not salty enough and water quality is not as high.”

There is another major reason Zimmerman is eager to work with the aquarium, which has nearly 700,000 visitors annually; it gives ODU researchers the opportunity to convey the broader impact of their work via aquarium displays. “The aquarium can translate our science into a context that is readily accessible to the general public. This is something that funding agencies require, and we also feel a moral imperative to do it because we are spending taxpayers’ money and they deserve information on the benefits of our research.”

Lynn Clements, executive director of the aquarium, has had ties to ODU for many years. She received a bachelor’s degree in biology from ODU in 1976 and a master’s in education four years later. She also serves on the ODU College of Sciences Advisory Board. “The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center’s mission of marine environment conservation through education, research and sustainable practices has been the key to its development throughout its 25-year history,” she said. “In recent years, the aquarium’s role in research has increased dramatically. In the process, Old Dominion University has emerged as a natural partner. Both educational institutions, one formal and the other informal, provide the ideal marine education link for staff, students and the community.”

Clements also believes that a common goal of both organizations is to inspire young people to become scientists. “As alumni of ODU, both Mark Swingle (M.S. Oceanography ’80) and I are well aware of the excellent science programs that the
UNIQUE EELGRASS STUDY TO BE CONDUCTED BY RESEARCHERS AT ODU AND VIRGINIA AQUARIUM

Oceanographers at Old Dominion University and staff at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach are working together on a $1 million project designed to determine if some aspects of global warming could help promote the growth of eelgrass (Zostera marina). This would be good news for the seagrasses that have been endangered in the Chesapeake Bay for several decades and are the subject of restoration efforts.

Thriving stands of seagrasses are indicators of healthy waters and provide favorable habitats for marine creatures. But the ribbon-like eelgrass prefers cool, clear waters, which have been in short supply in the bay in recent decades. Nutrient and sediment runoff from coastal lands, extensive algae blooms, unusually warm summers and severe storms have reduced water quality, devastating the eelgrass meadows.

On top of these threats is a problem related to geography. Already, the Chesapeake Bay is near the southern limit for the growth of eelgrass; not much farther south the water becomes too warm. If global warming continues, the eelgrass boundary could move north.

So climate warming is a negative for eelgrasses, but what about ocean carbonation? Global warming has been linked to increasing amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and the abundance of this gas in the air is also bringing about increased carbonation of the oceans (also known as ocean acidification). Scientists have shown that this trend is a threat to many marine organisms, largely because the acidified seawater can eat away at corals and the shells of snails, oysters and clams.

Nevertheless, Richard Zimmerman, professor of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences at ODU, believes the rising levels of carbon dioxide in marine waters may be a good thing for seagrasses. “My past work indicates that rising carbon dioxide may rescue eelgrass from severe temperature stress, allowing it to persist even in a warmer climate,” he explained.

Zimmerman teamed up last year with Victoria Hill, a research assistant professor of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences at ODU, and Mark Swingle, director of research and conservation at the Virginia Aquarium, to write a proposal for a grant from the National Science Foundation for a collaborative eelgrass study. Early in March, they received formal word that the work had been funded.

Zimmerman said that although the research will focus on eelgrass in the Chesapeake Bay, the research team hopes to gain insight into how climate change may affect the species in other coastal environments that may be subjected to less temperature stress, but similar levels of ocean carbonation.
Boyhood in Tunisia

By Mounir Laroussi
Alexandre Dumas, Grade One

"Ecole Primaire Alexandre Dumas" was the name of my elementary school. I actually was not zoned to go to this school, but my father wanted me to attend a school with a good reputation and a recognizable name. So he managed to get me into Alexandre Dumas Primary School. It was located downtown, only about 300 yards from the great port of my hometown, Sfax. This meant that I had to use a bus that took me from my neighborhood to the lower edge of the old Arabic town, and then I had to walk across the old town from the west gate to the east gate, then the length of the modern French town until I finally reached my school. The school had been built by the French, which explains why it is named for the French novelist. In those days, following French tradition, the principal resided with his family within the school quarters. Our principal was a tall man in his early forties, a disciplinarian who spoke loudly and forcefully. The students were terrified of him.

When we arrived to school early in the morning, there was always a special treat waiting for us: To make sure all kids had a nutritional breakfast, the school provided warm milk sweetened by strawberry flavoring. So every morning, before classes started, the students gathered in the courtyard outside the cafeteria and formed three lines in front of the three stainless steel kettles that contained the highly coveted warm pink milk. We all loved the taste of the flavored milk so much that whenever possible we tried to sneak unnoticed into another queue after we consumed our first cup of milk. Another great treat at my school were the boiled chickpeas spiced with salt and cumin. These were served during recess, but we had to pay for this treat, one serving worth a nickel.

It was only my second week of school when I was called to the principal's office. Rumors had already reached my ears during the first week that the principal was a swift punisher. I was terrified, but could not recall doing anything bad since joining school. I walked at a slow pace across the school courtyard full with dread, not knowing why I was called and what was going to happen to me. As I approached the principal's office he came out and said, "It is about time you got here. What took you so long?" I did not reply, out of fear. He said, "Follow me to the second grade classroom." I complied and walked behind him in silence. The principal stopped in front of the door of the second grade room, turned to me and said, "Your father petitioned me to put you in second grade. He seems to think that this is where you belong.

We are going to give you a little test and see if that is true. If you pass, you will be placed in second grade as requested by your father." I wondered what my dad was up to. He did not tell me that any of this was going to happen.

The principal and I entered the classroom where a friendly teacher welcomed us with a smile and said, "So this is the smart boy who wants to be in second grade?" He then took me by the hand and made me face the blackboard, which had various letters and sentences written on the left and numbers and additions on the right. The teacher then said, "If you get 80 percent of this right consider yourself a second-grader, son!" I subsequently read the letters and sentences aloud and continued on with the numbers and their additions. When I was finished the teacher said, "Very good. You made just one mistake. Welcome to second grade, young man." The principal looked at me and said, "I guess your dad was not kidding. Starting tomorrow you will have to come to this room, son. Mr. Masmoudi here is now your teacher." He was a great teacher, beloved by all the students. Our favorite part of his class was when he strapped his red accordion around his shoulder and played...
it while we sang. This was the way every class session ended.

The glorious historical moments of Tunisia are few, as became clear to me during my fifth year at Alexandre Dumas, when we studied the great Carthaginian general Hannibal Barca. In our history class, we learned about Carthage and its struggles with Rome. The unit lasted for a week during which we learned about mighty Carthage and its empire that spread across North Africa, Sicily, Sardinia, and Spain. Carthage, now a beautiful suburb of Tunis, was the capital of the empire. Very little of that great city remains today. Rome utterly destroyed it after the third Punic War. It is said that Rome’s rage was such that its legions plowed salt into the ground of Carthage so nothing would ever grow there again.

But Hannibal was our hero, a god-like figure. He might be compared to more recent military leaders such as General Eisenhower, but Hannibal was even greater. This is my subjective view as a Tunisian. Our teacher said that Hannibal decimated one Roman army after another. He magically crossed the Alps and invaded Italy, where he stayed for 15 years ravaging its cities and countryside.

Hannibal’s nemesis was a Roman general named Scipio Africanus. We thought that Scipio was an evil guy, jealous of Hannibal and his prowess. We could not wait to learn how Hannibal whipped Scipio and his pathetic army.

But the teacher said that did not happen. He said that, in fact, Hannibal lost the battle and had to flee the country. What? That could not be. We were very confident that Hannibal would crush that weasel, Scipio. But the teacher assured us that after the defeat, Hannibal fled and was taken in by a king somewhere in the Kingdom of Bithynia in Asia Minor, leaving Carthage behind to deal with the Romans. The teacher then added that the worst had yet to come. By this time it was Thursday and the end of the history lesson. We all went home after school wondering what could be worse than losing a major battle. Friday, we all returned to school with anticipation to hear the rest of the sad story of Hannibal. The teacher started by reminding us of the greatness of Hannibal and all the battles he won. Then he pulled out a picture from his desk and held it up. It showed a dead soldier lying on the floor, in his hand a cup with liquid spilling out of it. He looked at us for a minute making sure that we digested the scene in the picture, and then said that the body we were looking at was Hannibal’s. He had committed suicide by drinking poison after finding out that the king he thought was his friend was negotiating with Rome for his capture.

We all stared at the teacher in disbelief. I imagined myself going back in time and killing that traitor of a king. How could he dare betray our hero, the greatest general who had ever lived? My violent dream must have lasted for a while for I was suddenly brought out of my reveries by the music teacher who enthusiastically entered the classroom and announced loudly, “Hi, kids. We are going to learn a new and wonderful song today!” That’s when I heard the kid in the row next to mine yell in a sobbing voice, “How could you expect us to sing on a day like this. Hannibal is dead, don’t you know?”

**TV Arrives in My Neighborhood**

Television arrived to my neighborhood with a clamor in the late 1960s. For a while we had heard reports, or should I say rumors, about this magical medium. Rich families had it already, but I lived in a lower middle-class neighborhood and it took some time for the most prosperous family amongst us to buy a TV set. The way things worked in my neighborhood
meant that the family who had acquired the TV set had to allow access to all the kids of the neighborhood. Their house became virtually the movie theater of the neighborhood, no tickets needed. So, every afternoon we kids headed to our neighbor’s house to see the latest TV programs. The house was not big enough to hold the crowd of kids, so our neighbor put the TV set close to the edge of his living room window, which opened on his small front yard. The kids sat in rows facing the TV; the early arrivals fit in the yard, the late ones were out in the street.

The most memorable events we saw were at the 1968 Olympic Games held in Mexico City.

Tunisia had a super star competing in track and field. His name was Mohammed Gammoudi and he competed in the 5,000-meter race. He was the Mediterranean tournament champion the previous year and we expected a lot of him, no less than a gold medal. At the right time, we all showed up in front of our neighbor’s house and asked him to bring his TV set to the edge of the window. Great excitement was in the air and our neighbor happily obliged. As the racers took their places ready to start the competition, we all started shouting “Tunisie, Tunisie, Tunisie…” A gunshot rang out of the TV set and the racers lunged forward. As was his style, Gammoudi started the race conservatively and carefully paced himself during the first few laps. He made sure to keep up with the important racers and stayed with their group at all times. In the last lap he overtook everybody and crossed the finish line first. It was a glorious moment. The loud shouts of the kids could be heard all the way to the edge of the neighborhood. Our neighbor, the TV owner, brought out soft drinks and distributed them to the kids in the front who shared them with ones in the back. It was a great time, brought to us all the way from Mexico to the edge of our neighbor’s window.

July 20 and 21, 1969, were two special days for the enthusiastic TV audience of my neighborhood. During these two days extended coverage of the moon landing kept everyone transfixed to the TV set. By then we had already a TV set in our house, which automatically became one of the many TV theaters in the neighborhood. To me, the moon landing was an eye feast that I could not forget. It was also an affirmation of how great science could allow mere mortals to achieve the near-impossible.

The moment Neil Armstrong stepped down the ladder and put his left foot, then his right, on the moon surface was unforgettable. We all applauded and felt as if one of us had landed on the moon. In Tunisia we did not speak English, so we did not understand the back and forth messages exchanged between the Eagle and ground control in Houston, but the TV commentator did translate to us what Armstrong said right after he put his feet on the moon surface, “One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” It sounded great.

The moon landing got a lot of coverage in street conversations all over my neighborhood. Rumors started circulating that what we watched the day before was a Hollywood production. Soon camps of believers and non-believers formed and debated the matter with the greatest details and enthusiasm. I recall one debate on a street corner when a smart looking guy said, “I realized that the whole thing was made up when I saw the flag that they planted on the surface of the moon. It stayed up and was even waving. Now this cannot be. There is no wind on the moon. In fact, there is no air whatsoever. The flag should have dropped and stayed in that position.” Many people at that gathering were awed by the knowledge and the attention to details that the gentleman displayed.

An old man suddenly said, “Enough of all this technical nonsense. Man simply cannot go to the moon or any other heavenly body. God has not intended for him to do so. Remember that God banished man to earth after he disobeyed him and ate the apple from the tree in the Garden of Eden. Any attempt of man to leave Earth would be regarded by God as rebellion, and he would surely strike down any rocket or vehicle before it leaves Earth’s atmosphere. So, dear friends, do not be fooled by mere images.” Many young people in the crowd broke into laughter and one of them said, “Don’t listen to Mr. Mustapha, he still believes that Earth is flat and the sun revolves around it.” The old man took offense and said, “Yes, the earth is flat and if you laugh at me some more, your nose will be too.” This produced more laughter and soon the crowd dispersed, leaving the matter unresolved, and ripe for yet another lively debate.
The International Road

In 2012, more than 100 Old Dominion University faculty members will travel outside the United States for research, teaching or consulting, and many more will attend meetings of international societies and institutes. Close to 250 of the university’s students will take educational trips abroad, and hundreds of alumni will put their educations to use in faraway lands. Still other members of the ODU community will go on humanitarian missions to underdeveloped nations.

These global connections are increasing in number for ODU – for example, study abroad numbers have grown by about 35 percent in the last few years – and serve as evidence of movement toward a goal clearly stated in the current Strategic Plan. For as much as ODU is providing economic stimulus and cultural advancement in Hampton Roads and the state of Virginia, it is also a large research university uniquely situated in a thriving seaport and military center, poised to share its expertise and good works with people worldwide.

With this issue, Monarch launches a “Global Connections” section that throughout 2012 will examine the ways that the university community is meeting the “international outlook” goal stated in the Strategic Plan.
**Global Connections**

**Ahead is Clear for ODU**

**Study Abroad Women Work for Peace Abroad and at Home**

(A global perspective, that’s what ODU students get from a long list of study abroad courses and programs, as well as cultural field trips and humanitarian missions. Jennifer Fish, chair of the ODU Department of Women’s Studies, is a faculty leader in the study abroad program. As a scholar and public sociologist, she specializes in women’s labor and migration in the informal economy, civil society organizations and social reconciliation in the aftermath of conflict.)

**BY JENNIFER FISH**

Human connectivity serves as the most sustainable intervention to promote a culture of peace and redress the residue of violent conflict throughout the world. In South Africa, the concept of ubuntu teaches a cherished belief that “I am because we are.” As Archbishop Desmond Tutu explains it, “My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.” Women’s Studies students at Old Dominion University have the opportunity to experience ubuntu by traveling to South Africa to see social reconciliation and peace building firsthand, taking part in our Rwanda partnership, or working directly with refugee communities in Hampton Roads.

For the past six years, I have led study abroad trips to Cape Town, South Africa, where the legacy of the apartheid conflict lingers in the midst of the larger national project to promote forgiveness, social dialogue and reconciliation. Over the course of nearly a month of intensive on-the-ground engagement with nongovernmental organizations, public health clinics, national trade unions and schools, students expand their understanding of both conflict and peace building by learning from women community leaders who are at the forefront of social change initiatives.

Through these interactions, for example, we learn that the HIV/AIDS pandemic has gripped communities as a new form of violence, in ways that re-traumatize those who lived through the struggle to end apartheid. Yet within the context of this severe pandemic, we meet grandmother activists who are educating their communities to prevent transmission, resolving daily conflicts and serving as a united force in response to the AIDS orphan crisis. I am convinced that our students’ direct connection to leaders in South Africa teaches community engagement in ways that foster a wider investment in peace building as a central component of global citizenship.

These lessons are available within our own Hampton Roads community as well, where approximately 200 refugees are resettled each year through the Refugee and Immigration Services organization. In efforts to bring the global to the local level, for the past year our students have engaged in working “beyond the borders” of the university to support and learn from newly resettled refugees who hold vast life experience of severe conflict and war, while striving to establish new lives within the Hampton Roads community.

Our focus on the impact of conflict and war on women has also led to the development of a partnership with the Centre for Gender, Culture and Development at the Kigali Institute of Education in Rwanda. Last year, Anita Clair Fellman, ODU Professor Emerita, earned a Senior Fulbright Specialist award to develop the capacity of higher education institutions to respond to the need to educate women leaders, who are carrying the load of Rwanda’s ongoing reconciliation project. This is the first Rwandan university curriculum on gender rights, and we have directly connected ODU faculty and students to research within this nation, which suffered the devastation of the 1994 genocide and now holds the highest level of women’s representation in government in the world, currently at 56 percent.

Our work in South Africa, Rwanda and Hampton Roads emphasizes the focus of PBS’s “Women, War and Peace” series by connecting our local students and supporters to the larger issues that capture the centrality of women’s experiences of violent conflict and women’s vital contributions to the extensive work of realizing ubuntu. We are delighted to partner with WHRO in support of this series.

(For more about the Office of Study Abroad see http://www.odu.edu/ao/oip/studyabroad/index.shtml.)
Alums Abroad An ODU Grad in London: Houseboat Owner, IT Entrepreneur, Summer Olympics Volunteer

Guillaume Nerzic received a master’s degree in computer science from Old Dominion University in 1998 and headed straight to London. Although he is French, he had done undergraduate studies in England and gone to high school in London. “It was a natural place to come back to,” he says.

While at ODU, during which time his father, a rear admiral in the French navy, held a NATO post in Norfolk, Nerzic worked as a teacher’s assistant, running programming workshops for the Computer Programming 101 course. “I discovered I really liked teaching, and thought I was pretty good at it, given the feedback I was getting from the undergraduates.” He decided that the job for him would be as an information technology trainer, and that’s exactly what he found.

He joined a France-based company, Valtech, which provided technology training and support to large corporate clients and government departments. While Nerzic was working in London on a project for J.P. Morgan, Valtech downsized and ceased training services in the United Kingdom. This led him to join former Valtech colleagues in a new firm, Liemur, which focuses on IT project management and training solutions. “They wanted me to manage the training side of it, look after the material, design tailored educational packages and deliver them,” Nerzic remembers.

“Liemur was a startup, so everyone did everything. It was fun and exhilarating, and also involved working from home, which was no problem since I rented a very large house with a nice garden. While at my desk, I designed training plans and wrote teaching material, and helped with sales and marketing. At client work sites, I delivered courses, held workshops and provided mentoring to the employees.”

Through that job he landed a consultant’s post with the London-based HSBC, one of the largest international banks and financial services organizations. “I was happy with this, seeing that HSBC is a good name to put on a resume,” Nerzic says.

But he soon found that the work at HSBC was completely different from what he had been accustomed to. “No more cutting-edge technology and agile project management. I was taking large steps backwards – waterfall-style management, monolithic software solutions, high reliance on Excel and Access, the opposite to what ODU had taught me and what I had tried to convey while I was a trainer.”

His background as a trainer did serve him well, however. “The thing that I have learned in my career is that if you are adept at understanding other people’s problems, listening carefully and asking questions, and are good at communicating your understanding to others, then you’ll succeed in all different kinds of industries. Having been a technology trainer, I was a quick learner and good communicator; everything else flowed from that.”

Eventually, Nerzic became the key data analyst on a credit risk project and had a front row seat to the international credit crunch that began in 2007. “I was witnessing firsthand the fall of companies like Lehman Brothers in exposure data I was analyzing for HSBC.”

The downside of the job was his conviction that he was not creating anything of worth for society, while also working himself to a frazzle. The upside was the pay. “Banks do pay handsomely in exchange for all the long hours, lost weekends and stress. I was able to fulfill a long-standing dream of mine, and really a bucket list item: I bought a houseboat in the

114,000 Alumni living in every state and 69 countries

1,123 International students at ODU during the 2010-11 school year, representing 111 countries
Peace Corps Assignment in Philippines

For **Leah Ferrebee ’04**, serving her country abroad meant joining the Peace Corps. The Virginia Beach native and exercise science graduate has been with the corps in Tarlac, Philippines, since 2009.

She works at a residential facility for abandoned, neglected or orphaned young people, and one of her missions is to prepare the residents for independent living. Ferrebee helped to establish an Eco-Learning Farm to teach life skills, livelihood projects, horticulture therapy, food supplementation and outdoors education. “We also facilitate service-learning ecological solid waste management and tree-planting projects,” she says.

Husband Tom, who is also a Peace Corps volunteer and teaches English at a Philippines agriculture college, started a literacy project at Leah’s residential facility.

“The academic rigors at ODU prepared me for the challenges of life in the Peace Corps,” she says. “Many of my professors at ODU helped me recognize the importance of education and my full course loads taught me time management skills I routinely apply during my daily work with Filipino counterparts and project management.”

The work, she adds, is empowering. “I will continue to exchange skills and strive to improve communities no matter where I am in the world for many years to come.”
During the summer of 2012, ODU oceanographer Rodger Harvey will be aboard a research vessel off Alaska’s northwest coast at the edge of the Arctic Ocean for ecosystem assessments ahead of proposed offshore oil drilling. He is one of nearly a dozen ODU researchers who have received grants for projects during the past few years that focus on polar oceans.

Several dozen other ODU faculty members have ventured around the globe between the Arctic and Antarctica for other recent funded research in subject areas such as bioelectrics, modeling and simulation, maritime logistics, nuclear physics, Chinese culture and politics, infrastructure risk management, fisheries management, the politics of Middle East oil, chemical oceanography and nanobiotechnology.

This research of global significance often zeros in on topics that are in the news headlines, including the availability and price of energy and climate change/global warming. In Harvey’s case, his latest project is wide in scope, covering energy and climate-change issues.

Harvey, chair of ODU’s Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, was part of a team that has already done baseline assessments for the federal government in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska, where oil rigs are now planned. But the stakes are expected to be higher farther up toward the Arctic on the Hanna Shoal. “As they continue to search for oil and gas, the oil companies are moving north, into the Arctic waters of Hanna Shoal,” he explains. “Before they can move ahead, we need to understand the ecosystem in case there are problems later, and the Gulf of Mexico story (BP incident) tells us we need to know the system before problems happen.”

Before drilling can be approved in these northern waters, the researchers need to take careful note of the large community of sea, land and air creatures that live in or migrate through Hanna Shoal. Tiny plankton and giant whales are on either end of a complex food chain in these waters. Opponents of the drilling have contended that the very cold waters covered in ice for six months of the year will complicate cleanups from spills. “It’s so cold that even a small spill would stay around for a long while,” Harvey says. In addition, “We need to understand the ecosystem very well to know how it will respond to climate changes.”

As the organic geochemist on the research expedition this summer, Harvey’s main goal will be to determine the distribution and concentration of organic pollutants, including hydrocarbons from oil as well as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in sediments and bottom-dwelling creatures such as the northern Neptune Whelks. PAHs are pollutants that come from the burning of fossil fuels and plants.

Although waters of the Chukchi Sea and above it are considered some of the most pristine on Earth, the federal government wants to document the amount of hydrocarbons and PAHs present prior to oil drilling. The research team, which includes investigators from six other institutions, received $5 million from the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to do the assessment.
AlphaWOLF Vineyard and Olive Ranch in California’s Napa County can be found at the intersection of all the roads Bill Wolf (M.B.A. ‘86) has taken, beginning with his formative years in Pennsylvania and moving on to the university years in Virginia and business-executive years on the West Coast.

There are clues, as well, in the background of his artistic wife, Roxanne, that point to where they are now – on 13 acres of prime wine and olive oil – producing land in a valley that many call the most Tuscan-like in the United States.

Their Eagle Eye wines comprise an array of varietals and blends that are attractively priced for Napa Valley bottles between $19 and $29. The label is beginning to catch on now that it has been in the American marketplace for a few years. Early this year, the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition named the Eagle Eye Petit Verdot, a Bordeaux-style red wine, first in its class. The AlphaWOLF Estate Extra Virgin Olive Oil that the Wolfs produce from the fruit of their 300 Tuscan-lineage trees is a grassy, peppery prize-winner that is also gaining fans at $25 for a .500-liter can. (See Wine Tasting Notes.) Still, Bill Wolf says the dream life he and his wife have created for themselves did not come without bumps in the road, such as a devastating fire, grape-gobbling wild turkeys, vine-killing pests and frustrating marketing hurdles. “Occasionally,” he adds, “I think someone with an M.B.A. should be smarter than to get himself into all this.”
“My father taught me organic gardening as a youngster in our small community outside of Pittsburgh. I liked the idea of it. My desire to grow something, and my passion for food and wine, led me to my dream.”

The AlphaWOLF story starts in the early 1900s when Wolf’s great-grandfather, a German immigrant, opened a bakery in what is now Clairton, Pa. The family soon added a nearby liquor enterprise; customers could bring their own jugs and get them filled with one alcoholic beverage or another. Somewhere in this ancestry, Wolf finds the roots of his love of food and wine, and especially, as he is prone to point out, of good food and good wine paired well together.

A first job as a union laborer in a Pennsylvania steel mill persuaded Wolf to go to a tech school to study professional cooking and restaurant management. By the time he was 21 he had landed a job with ARA (now Aramark Corp., which is known for its institutional food-service operations). This turned out to be a fruitful relationship. Beginning as a food production manager at a Pennsylvania college, he worked his way up the management ladder with Aramark, changing addresses 20 times in eight states. It was while he was in Virginia in the 1980s that he found time to earn a bachelor’s degree from Christopher Newport University and a master’s from ODU. Then, in 1988, Aramark made him a vice president of its Healthcare Group, responsible for 10 Western states. His base was San Francisco in the midst of the choicest wine country in the United States.

By the time Bill and Roxanne married in 1994, both were sure that their lifestyle was due for an update. She had been putting in long hours working in real estate sales and his travel schedule, especially toward the end of his 27-year career with Aramark, was a killer. In the time frame of 1996-98, they quit the jobs and began to plot their future. She had her artistic endeavors, such as painting and jewelry design, to fall back on, but, as a couple, they were looking for more. “We wanted to do something together,” Wolf remembers. “We made a list of things we both enjoyed and we kept coming back to food and wine.”

In the back of his mind, Wolf also held a boyhood memory that he had always known was important to him, but it had not been the sort of bliss that an on-the-go businessman could chase. “My father taught me organic gardening as a youngster in our small community outside of Pittsburgh. I liked the idea of it. My desire to grow something, and my passion for food and wine, led me to my dream.”

Finding the right piece of land, however, was no easy matter. Wolf says he and his wife should not be confused with folks who arrive in Napa Valley today “with $100 million to invest, and wanting to buy into the winemaking lifestyle.” Although he said AlphaWOLF Ranch represents an investment of more than $1 million, he and Roxanne had to be picky in order to get a suitable plot within their price range. It wasn’t until 1999 that they settled on an overgrown farm with a walnut orchard in an eastern section of Napa County called Gordon Valley.

“It had been vacant for 15 years,” he says. “The house was run down. An investor had bought the property with the dream of vineyards, but instead of accomplishing his dream, he and his wife ended up divorcing over it.”

As the Wolf’s dream was shaping up, the couple decided to do some research. They traveled through winemaking districts in Tuscany and France that are known not so much for their glitz, as for their pastoral beauty and their hardworking farmers who make wine. They also saw olive groves that they wanted to replicate on their ranch. Another trip took them to winemaking districts of Australia and New Zealand, where they got coaching from the world renowned Australian viticulturist Richard Smart.
The couple took formal classes in winemaking at the University of California, Davis, and won the certification of Third Level Advanced from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust, which is based in London.

Soil tests conducted at the ranch turned up five different soil types and helped Wolf decide what grapes to plant and where to situate his nine acres of vineyards. The olive trees were planted around the vineyards.

Wolf points out that olive trees do not affect the flavors of grapes growing nearby. “Other alternative crops, such as lavender, can cross-pollinate and will have the opportunity to cross-flavor.”

By 2005, the vines he had planted had matured to his liking and he had enough inventory to push his Eagle Eye brand of wines into an interstate marketplace. Most of that inventory was being kept under climate-controlled conditions at a warehouse in Vallejo. The wine storage enterprise used by Eagle Eye was operated by a bon vivant who was well known in the region. As the criminal case would make clear later, this bon vivant was also lifting rare bottles of wines from the collections of his patrons, selling them and pocketing the money. Apparently to cover up his tracks, he set a fire in October 2005 that destroyed wine worth at least $200 million, including inventory from Eagle Eye and more established wineries such as ZD and Saintsbury.

The Wolfs were in the middle of harvest when the fire happened and they didn’t learn about it until a day later. Wolf says that just a few minutes before he got the news he “was thinking about the $12,000 a year I was paying for insurance and wondering if it was really worth it. Then I see the news that there was a wine warehouse fire in Mare Island (Vallejo). I woke Roxanne and told her. Knowing she would be upset, I said, ‘Think of it this way – we never sold so much wine in one day to one customer with no marketing expenses.’”

He can laugh about it now, but Wolf believes Eagle Eye’s loss from the fire has been much more than their insurance ever covered. He and his wife had to scramble to buy juice to keep their brand going. “Still, we lost distributors and market share. We have never truly recovered.”

Currently, Eagle Eye produces about 2,500 cases of wine a year. Wolf would like to ramp that up to 10,000. “But first you have to figure out how to sell it,” he quips, referring to a recession-blunted market these days for wines costing more than $20.

Nevertheless, he has reason to believe the brand can prosper and grow. One source of that optimism is the maturation of the vines he has planted. “Our vineyards turn 10 years old this year. We figure we are just starting to produce the very top quality fruit for high end wines.” He also has faith in the winemaking philosophy he and his wife promote, along with their veteran California winemaker, John Gibson, who has been responsible for vintages since 2007. Too many California wineries “try to differentiate themselves with a lot of oak and big, over-the-top wines,” Wolf says. “We’re using only a small amount of new oak. The word I hear people using when they taste our wines is ‘smooth.’”

The first year Eagle Eye produced wine, it was available in four states. Today that number has grown to 20, but the red tape and competition involved in expansion can be frustrating. In Virginia, for example, Wolf has placed his wines with one distributor, a small one in Lynchburg. He’s hoping to get the wines into Hampton Roads soon. (Eagle Eye ships wine directly to customers in some states, including Virginia. See www.eagleeyewine.com.)

And how about that memory of organic gardening with his dad? Wolf says there are no organic controls for several vine diseases, and that for the time being he has pushed the natural-farming idea as far as he can at AlphaWOLF. The ranch has received “green” and “sustainable” certifications, and he’s very proud, as well, of the “fish-friendly” farming classification he won from a state environmental organization, which means he uses no chemicals that pollute the stream on his property, where, by the way, endangered steelhead trout are thriving.

WINE TASTING NOTES

Bill and Roxanne Wolf, owners of AlphaWOLF Vineyard and Olive Ranch in Napa County, Calif., take active roles in vineyard management and the blending of their Eagle Eye wines. They say their aim is to produce fruity wines for easy drinking, but also with the components that lead to complexity and ageability. Monarch magazine editor Jim Raper (who also writes the Humble Steward wine column for The Virginian-Pilot newspaper in Hampton Roads) tasted five of the Eagle Eye wines and here are his notes:

■ Eagle Eye 2008 Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley ($19). The honeyed Semillon and musky Muscat that are blended with the Sauvignon Blanc make this an aromatic and multi-layered wine. Lime flavors dominate. The Wolfs grow no white grapes, so this is made from purchased fruit.

■ Eagle Eye 2006 Voluptuous Napa Valley ($25). An unusual proprietary blend of estate and purchased fruit – including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Petite Verdot and Zinfandel – creates a wine that mixes sophistication and clout. Damson plum and dried cherry flavors are prominent.

■ Eagle Eye 2008 Infatuation Napa Valley ($25). A red blend mostly of estate Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a powerful, dark red with black cherry and blackberry flavors balanced by friendly tannins and just a little smoke.

■ Eagle Eye 2007 Merlot Napa Valley ($25). There is nothing showy about this wine, but the more you sip it, the more you appreciated its honest Merlot approachability. Blackberry and blueberry flavors combine with tobacco, giving it an earthiness that reminds of a French Merlot.

■ Eagle Eye 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley ($29). This is a Napa Cab, for sure. Vanilla and a wee bit of smoke and spice from oak barrels meld with base flavors of sweet dark berries and chocolate.

Competition Awards for AlphaWOLF Estate Extra Virgin Olive Oil


The Old Dominion University Alumni Association presented Distinguished Alumni, Alumni Service, Outstanding Achievement and Honorary Alumni awards in October at the 3rd Annual Alumni Honors Dinner. The Alumni Association also recognized its 50th reunion class members during the dinner program at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards went to:

- **Wendy Bahr ’83**, who received a bachelor’s degree in administration in communication, is the senior vice president of Global and Strategic Partners for the Worldwide Partner Organization for Cisco. She lives in Los Gatos, Calif.

- **Cmdr. Benito E. Baylosis ’87**, who received a bachelor’s degree in engineering technology from ODU, is on the staff of Commander, Naval Surfaces, Atlantic, and is considered the Navy’s leading expert in enemy improvised explosive device technology in Iraq. He lives in Norfolk with his wife Anna, a 1988 graduate of ODU.

- **Jeff Cogen ’79**, a native of Newport News who received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from ODU, became the chief executive officer of both the Nashville Predators, an affiliate of the National Hockey League, and the Bridgestone Arena in August 2010. Previously, he served two executive stints with the Dallas Stars.

- **Jeffrey A. Cotter ’85**, who received a bachelor’s degree in engineering technology from ODU, is on the staff of Commander, Naval Surfaces, Atlantic, and is considered the Navy’s leading expert in enemy improvised explosive device technology in Iraq. He lives in Norfolk with his wife Anna, a 1988 graduate of ODU.

- **Louis G. Morris ’76**, who received a bachelor’s degree in financial management from ODU, is president and chief executive officer of Old Point National Bank and executive vice president of Old Point Financial Corp. The Portsmouth native is an inductee of the ODU Hall of Fame for tennis. Since 2002, he has been on the ODU Educational Foundation board as chair and, currently, as chair of the Committee on Trustees.

The Alumni Service Award was presented to **Richard F. “Rick” Kiefner ’69**, who received a bachelor’s degree in pre-med/pre-dental from ODU. Kiefner, who has been in the insurance industry for 37 years, is a financial representative for the Hampton Roads branch of Northwestern Mutual.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to **Anna Tunnicliffe-Funk ’05**, who received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from ODU. She is the skipper for the U.S. Olympic Team; the U.S. Sailing Team, AlphaGraphics; and Team Tunnicliffe, also known as Team Maclaren, in the Match Racing class. In 2009 and 2011, the International Sailing Federation named her ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year, the most prestigious recognition in the sport of sailing. She lives in Florida with her husband and training partner, Brad Funk ’03.

Two well-known Hampton Roads residents, Dennis M. Ellmer and Angelica D. Light, received Honorary Alumni Awards. Ellmer founded Priority Automotive in 1998, which operates dealerships in Hampton Roads, Richmond and Charlotte, N.C. Light, retired at the end of 2011 as president and CEO of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, a position she held with the foundation’s predecessor, The Norfolk Foundation.

ODUAA President Mike Fowler ’94, ’04 MBA noted that this has become truly a hallmark event of the Association. “We’re not only able to recognize outstanding achievement, but also help generate funds for the Alumni Association’s programs and services including the Adam Thoroughgood Scholarship, Faculty Awards, and Alumni/Student networking activities.”
As soon as someone walks into my office, he or she knows that I am a proud ODU alumnus. In addition to the mug that says as much, I have about as many pieces of Old Dominion paraphernalia as corporate policy allows. (Odds are pretty good that I’m wearing an ODU tie, too.) It’s been this way since I went into the working world, and over the years, the inventory has grown.

I do this not only to show my pride in my alma mater, but also to begin networking with other alumni who come in the door. Every day, I meet a fellow Monarch, and that common bond has been the beginning of many great business relationships. As the saying goes, it’s not always just what you know, but who you know. This career networking has proven to be incredibly valuable to me, so much so that it’s become a personal goal of mine to spread the word among all ODU graduates about the powerful network that is your alumni association. The question I’m most often asked is, “Where do I start?”

The university’s Career Management Center (CMC) can provide alumni with tools they need to begin a job search, update their resume, make a career transition or recruit other alumni and students for jobs and internships. If you’re in the Hampton Roads areas, you can make an appointment by calling the office at 757-683-4388. And if you’re not in town you can still benefit from the CMC services. Cyber career coaches can help you, no matter how far-flung you may be. Across the country, and across the world, help is available 24/7! Visit the CMC website (http://www.odu.edu/ao/cmc/index.php) to learn more about all these services – they’re free to alumni for life.

Perhaps you are an alumnus or alumna in a position to hire or offer internships to students. Why not look to your alma mater to recruit? There are many opportunities to put your company in front of ODU’s best and brightest.

We also need you to share your expertise with current students. Through a variety of year-round networking events, we help give our future alumni insight into today’s working world. No matter what your background, you can be connected with another Monarch who will benefit from hearing about your experiences. Just contact the alumni office at odualumni@odu.edu.

I also love to hear stories about great alumni networking – feel free to drop me a line at odualumni@odu.edu. And the next time you’re at an alumni or University event, please don’t be a stranger! Come say hello – I’ll be the guy sporting the ODU tie.

—Mike Fowler ’94 (M.B.A. ’04)
Alumni Association president
The Weather-Jinxed Bride

Nikki Ange Woodward’s Wedding Survives Her Unselfish Detour to Tornado-Ravaged Joplin

The wedding last summer of Nikki Ange Woodward ’08 (M.S.C.H.E. ’10) didn’t exactly fall into place without kinks. Bad weather interrupted her boyfriend’s first attempt to propose. While trying on wedding dresses, she and others in the shop were herded into a storage room because of a tornado warning. Her first bridal shower was the day of the infamous East Coast earthquake. And her bachelorette party had to be rescheduled because she was deployed to Richmond by her employer, the Army Corps of Engineers, in preparation for Hurricane Irene.

But that’s not all that Mother Nature had in store to make things difficult for bride and groom. With her wedding only a few months away, she made an unselfish detour — again, because of her position with the Army Corps — to help the people of Joplin, Mo., pick up the pieces after the city was devastated by a May 22 tornado. She ended up spending 27 days in Joplin.

“Bad weather and disasters seemed to loom around all aspects of my wedding and the planning, but the way I see it, it’s all a sign of good luck and shows that my husband and I can make it through anything,” says Woodward.

She is an environmental specialist for the Regulatory Branch of the Norfolk District, Army Corps of Engineers, having received two degrees from ODU, a B.S. in biological sciences and an M.S. in community health education.

The nature of Woodward’s job raised the possibility of her being needed in Joplin, but she didn’t wait to be asked; she volunteered for the deployment. During her first week, she served as a debris quality assurance inspector, working 12-hour days to make sure that contractors safely and properly removed the rubble. (Nearly 7,000 homes and 500 commercial properties and government buildings were destroyed or heavily damaged.) Later, she was asked to assess private properties before debris-collection crews arrived, which included identifying dangerous debris and other hazards.

Despite being in the process of planning her wedding, Woodward felt that it was important for her to help out. “Since I was little, I’ve always enjoyed volunteering for various charities. I currently volunteer with a local horseback riding program, which assists with providing riding lessons for children with disabilities. And I felt that I could do a lot more good while away on the deployment to help people than to sit at home fussing over the little details that most people probably wouldn’t even notice at the wedding.”

Actually, she adds, she had been engaged for a year to Brandon Woodward before she left for Joplin, and the wedding planning was well along by then. She was able to handle some details for the Sept. 17 wedding from her hotel room.

So how did the wedding — it was in Knotts Island, N.C. — turn out? “Perfect,” she says, even though the day was windy and rainy.

—Ashley Taylor
1970s

Jean Lederle Lindsay (M.E.A. ‘72) and Fern Lederle McDougal ‘79 are co-authors (along with Charlene Page and Rebekah Bland) of “Taste and See that the Lord Is Good: A Cookie Ministry for Children.” The book, published in 2011, contains 59 lessons from the Bible, with a cookie designed to reinforce each lesson. The book also includes color photographs of each cookie, recipes, a list of suppliers, a bibliography and index.

Catherine S. Seifert ’73, an adjunct clinical faculty member in dental hygiene at ODU’s College of Health Sciences, was elected a Fellow in 2011 of the Academy of American Dental Hygiene. Among numerous leadership positions, she currently serves as president of the Tidewater Dental Hygienists’ Association and as a member of the Dental Hygiene National Advisory Committee for 3M Corp. Seifert, who works for a Hampton Roads periodontal practice, also recently led ODU students to Kel, Germany, for a dental hygiene program, and was an author with Margaret Lemaster, assistant professor of dental hygiene at ODU, of an article about vitamin D deficiency in Dimensions of Dental Hygiene.

Jerry David Allison (M.M.E. ‘74), professor of radiology at Georgia Health Sciences University, has been appointed a trustee for medical physics by the American Board of Radiology (ABR). Allison has been recognized for numerous contributions to scientific research and education, especially regarding magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). In 2009, he was presented the Jimmy O. Fenn Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeastern chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) for scientific achievements, contributions to the medical physics profession and leadership in professional organizations. A diplomat of the ABR in diagnostic radiological physics and medical nuclear physics, Allison has served as an ABR oral examiner and as a member of the Diagnostic Radiological Resident Physics Exam Committee since 2005. He is also board-certified in MRI physics and in health physics. He is a licensed professional engineer in Virginia.

Allison, a fellow of the AAPM, received a B.S. in nuclear engineering from N.C. State University, a master’s in mechanical engineering from ODU and a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering (medical physics) from the University of Florida. Early in his career he worked as a radiological control engineer at Newport News Shipbuilding.

Ronald Anderson ’76 has worked with Orkin Commercial Services since April 1996, and since July 2009 has been the service manager at the Richmond Commercial Branch for the Atlantic Commercial Region. After his branch was named the “Best Branch in the Company,” Allison became a member of the company’s President’s Club and was recognized by Rollins (Orkin’s parent company) with an award at a ceremony held in Boston in September 2011.

Stephen K. Hawks ’76 was appointed by Norfolk City Manager Marcus Jones to lead the city’s Human Services Department effective July 1, 2011. Hawks, who has a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Virginia, previously served as a budget analyst for the city of Newport News.

Penny (Thompson) Hatfield ’77 received an M.B.A. in health care administration from the University of Phoenix in January 2011.

John “Jay” Wagner ’77 recently became pastor of Church of the Ascension in Virginia Beach. “This is my 35th anniversary of graduation from ODU and 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. I am grateful to return to the Tidewater area, and to serve at Church of the Ascension, where there are many ODU alumni. I am also a former campus minister/priest at ODU, and current member of the ODUAJF and season ticket holder. Go Monarchs!”

Chuck Rigney ’79 was named the city of Norfolk’s interim director of development in September 2011. He succeeded longtime development director Rod Woolard who retired Nov. 1. Rigney has been assistant director of development for 14 of his 15 years with the city. He previously worked in banking and commercial real estate.

2011 was an exceptional year for ROBERT Q. BERRY ’91. He received the 2011 University of Virginia All-University Teaching Award and the 2011 Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics William C. Lowry Mathematics Educator of the Year award.

He also was promoted to associate professor and received tenure in the Department of Curriculum, Mathematics and Special Education of the Curry School of Education at U.Va. and was elected to the board of directors of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Berry received a B.S. in middle grades education: mathematics and science from ODU, an M.A. in teaching mathematics from Christopher Newport University and a Ph.D. in mathematics education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His dissertation was titled “Voices of African American Male Middle School Students: A Portrait of Successful Middle School Mathematics Students.” Berry taught mathematics education classes at ODU from 2002-05 and advanced to assistant professor before joining U.Va. in 2005.
ERIN HANNON ’10, who has toured with the Virginia Opera, was accepted into the master’s program at Boston Conservatory, the nation’s oldest conservatory, founded in 1867. She received a $10,000 scholarship and is one of only 14 people accepted into the program. She will focus on opera.

A graduate of Kempsville High School in Virginia Beach, Erin credits her vocal coach at ODU, Frank Ward, with inspiring her to concentrate on opera.

She has also studied at the Shenandoah Conservatory, sung with the Virginia Musical Theatre and performed in 2008 with the Opera-festival di Roma in Italy. Hampton Roads residents may also have seen her perform with Anthony Marcano at the Macaroni Grill in Virginia Beach.

1980s

Hester Taylor Clark was named Woman Contractor of the Year by American Express. Hester attended ODU from 1978-81, but left after her husband went into the military. She completed her degree elsewhere and also has obtained a master's degree.

Cynthia P. Morrison (M.B.A. ’80), as president of the Virginia Court Clerk’s Association, hosted the association’s annual meeting in August 2011 in Portsmouth. She is the elected Clerk of Circuit Court in Portsmouth.

Sheila Garrison ’85 writes, “I currently hold the position of vice president, program management office, for Goodman Networks. I recently earned my Program Management Professional (PgMP) Certification from PMI.”

John D. Cranmer ’88, a partner with the law firm of Archer & Greiner, which has offices in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware, is a member of the board of directors of the New Jersey Apartment Association. He recently played a key role in the NJAA’s successful campaign to conserve water by changing New Jersey Board of Public Utilities rules, to allow “sub-metering” on individual apartments so that it is clear how much water each unit is using. Cranmer, who lives in Moorestown, N.J., concentrates his practice in real estate law.

James W. Noel Jr. (M.P.A. ’88) was appointed director of economic development for York County in eastern Virginia. He previously had worked as an economic development representative for the city of Portsmouth.

Malaika King Albrecht ’89 has published a second collection of poems, “Spill,” from Main Street Rag publishers. Boston Literary Review editor Robin Stratton says, “In ‘On the Road,’ Jack Kerouac professes his attraction to people who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, and I have a feeling that ‘Spill’ by Malaika King Albrecht would make him sit up and say ‘Whoa...!’ Powerfully gritty and honest, ‘Spill’ refuses to look away from life’s ugliest moments — from the floods in New Orleans to baby mice drowning in a bucket of water — and finally lands you in Serenity Lodge in an ‘orange chair smelling of singed hair.’ But all the while a fragile stream of hope trickles unfraid toward its source, and Malaika reminds us that ‘when tossed upside-down in the surf / unable to discern which way is up / the natural swimmer just breathes out / and follows the bubbles to the surface.’ ‘Spill’ is breathtaking.”

Carlton Apperson ’89 returned to ODU for graduate work and received his master of arts degree in English literature in the fall of 2011. He resides in the Ghent area of Norfolk with his wife, Mary Beth, and his son, Matthew.

1990s

Joy Kolloff Bolluyt ’90 retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service and has started her own business—a franchise in northern Virginia—of Cybertary, a virtual assistant for small business management. Cybertary puts together virtual teams that provide more than 150 services needed for small businesses, ranging from bookkeeping to graphic design. Bolluyt says she now can work from home, giving her more work-life balance. Her Army service included work with Forward Operations Research and Development.

Sonya Ford ’90, a school counselor at North Point High School in Waldorf, Md., was recently named to the College Board’s National Office for School Counselor Advocacy advisory team, one of 25 school counselors selected nationwide. The team promotes the value of school counselors as leaders in school reform, student achievement and college readiness. During her three-year term, Ford will focus on professional development for school counselors and areas for research. Ford began her career with Charles County Public Schools in 2008 at North Point and was a 2011 nominee for the American School Counselor Association’s School Counselor of the Year award. She is a faculty member at the American Public University and Walden University and holds national board certification for counselors.

Elizabeth von Muggenthaler ’91, president of Fauna Communications Research Institute, a non-profit organization located in Hillsborough, N.C., is featured in a documentary prepared for National Geographic television about the “lake monster” of Lake Champlain in Vermont. She has researched the mysterious creature — believed to be something like a dolphin or small whale — since 2003 and has recorded underwater noises apparently made by more than one of the animals. In the fall of 2011, her research team was trying to get videotape evidence of the creatures. Von Muggenthaler first became interested in the sounds of animals as an ODU undergraduate psychology student, with an emphasis in animal behavior. Under the guidance of Joseph Daniel, a former dean of the College of Sciences and professor of biological sciences, and Allan Zuckerman, a former adjunct faculty member in electrical and computer engineering, she recorded her first animal rumbles — from rhinoceroses — at the Virginia Zoological Park in Norfolk.

Daniel Howell ’92, professor of human anatomy at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., was a “Kudus” participant featured in the New York City Barefoot Race in September 2011. Howell is an advocate of barefoot living, not just running. He has lived mostly barefoot for years and is author of “The Barefoot Book: 50 Great Reasons to Kick Off Your Shoes.” Howell has been interviewed by The Washington Post, USA Today, Popular Sci-
ence magazine, ABC news and radio shows from New York to New Zealand; he has appeared on MSNBC and the “Today Show” and was even featured in a Korean documentary on “barefooting.”

In his book, Howell describes the hazards of shoe use and health benefits of spending more time barefoot, especially when running and hiking. He contends that the continuous wearing of shoes is both a major and underrepresented health concern, causing everything from fungus growth, to bunions to knee and spine damage (particularly from high-heeled shoes).

**John B. Norris III ’93** was appointed county attorney of Calvert County, Md., effective Aug. 15, 2011. He has been in private practice in St. Mary’s County, Md., since 2006, and previously was county attorney for St. Mary’s County. A resident of Leonardtown, Md., he earned his law degree at Ohio Northern University.

**John B. Norris III ’93**

2000s

**Rachel Beal ’01** and Matthew Popowski are happy to announce their engagement. The wedding ceremony will take place on May 26, 2012, in Asheville, N.C., at the Parish of St. Eugene. Matthew is the public relations and events manager for Chimney Rock State Park. Rachel is the program director of the Comprehensive Wound Healing Center at Pandee Hospital. Through involvement with a United Way initiative, our wedding planning became part of a recent article about young adults and community service in the local news.

**Rachel Beal ’01**

**2000s**

**Rajeev Sagar Mudumba (M.B.A. ’01)** was a Global Visionary Award 2010 honoree of the World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana. He was also one of the 2011 “40 Under 40 Award” honorees of Business First of Louisville.

**Rajeev Sagar Mudumba (M.B.A. ’01)**

**Sandep Samudre ’01**, president and CEO of Lions Eye Institute of Virginia, was chosen as one of the 2011 Top Forty Under 40 business people in Hampton Roads by the Inside Business weekly. A researcher in ocular pharmacology and ophthalmology, he also teaches ophthalmology residents at Eastern Virginia Medical School. As an inventor, he is

**Sandep Samudre ’01**

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**ALUMNI PROFILE**

The Forecast is Sunny

**Kathleen and Kristina Cucé** Fashion

Footwear a Hit with Pro, College Fans

Identical twin sisters Kathleen (left) and Kristina Cucé ’05 from Virginia Beach, just wanted to support their favorite pro football team, the Indianapolis Colts, from head to toe when it hit them – their shoes didn’t match their outfits. The sisters recognized a business opportunity that led to their new business, Love Cucé Shoes.

“We are huge football fans and have gone to many NFL games, especially Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind.,” says Kristina. The day they wanted matching footwear, a casual “what if?” conversation in the stands prompted some preliminary research on female fanwear. When they found a gap in the female fan clothing line, the twins’ entrepreneurial spirit kicked in.

By June 2010, the 29-year-olds launched Love Cucé Shoes (www.lovecuceshoes.com), featuring collegiate logos on a line of fan-friendly, animal-friendly faux fur, synthetic suede and waterproof boots. ODU is included in the fashion lineup on a pair of rain boots, a must-have accessory for wet days on campus.

After winning licensing rights for 20 NCAA teams, the twins tackled pro football. It took five months of “banging down the door” at the National Football League to get a five-minute phone conversation that resulted in a 30-minute meeting in New York City with NFL licensing officials. The Cucé twins made it to the pro leagues in August 2011, becoming the youngest licensees in the NFL. League officials even invited the twins to model their products on the NFL Shop website, http://www.nfl.com/women?week=1.

It’s been a whirlwind of hard work, “the hardest year of our lives, but it has been the best as well!” says Kristina in an email. They were approved as licensees for the National Hockey League in September 2011. Major League Baseball is next on their radar.

The idea of starting their own company did not faze the sisters, who grew up working in their parents’ food and beverage businesses in Virginia Beach. Kristina, who majored in business management and finance at ODU, said her studies “strongly influenced and aided in the growth and success of our business” and she counts among her best professors John J. Keeling Jr., a senior lecturer in business management. Kathleen, who majored in political science, said she brings an eye for detail to contracts, paperwork and fresh ideas for the business. She credits Maria Formella-Oehninger, senior lecturer in political science, for explaining events from a global perspective, an essential skill for any business planning.

Winning NFL licensing rights was a huge gain for the company, Kristina said. For starters, the NFL supports marketing efforts for NFL products and its sales are stronger than in the collegiate market. One placement on the NFL Shop commercial promotes their product for all 32 NFL franchises. With league support, they have appeared on the “Today” show, “E! News,” Home Shopping Network, NFL Women’s Fit for You campaign, USA Today and numerous fashion blogs.

The sisters’ business forecast is sunny, especially as spring showers head their way. The company has its line of rain boots, ready to provide a fun fashion item for female sports fans who want to support their team, down to their feet.

-Janet Molinaro
 involve in developing new technology and therapeutics to treat ocular disorders.

D. Michael Arendall ’02, a partner with Englehard Fischer law firm in St. Petersburg, Fla., received an AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell in October 2011. This rating is reserved for lawyers nationwide who exhibit the highest professional standards of conduct and ethics, reliability and diligence. He also was appointed recently as chair of the Gulfport Board of Adjustment. Arendall’s juris doctor degree is from Stetson University College of Law.

Kia Dupree ’02 writes, “I just wanted to share my great publishing news! I’ll be speaking at the National Book Festival in two weeks about my new novel ‘Silenced’ (see Books section), which has received great reviews from The Library Journal and Publisher’s Weekly.”

Jennie Hurwitz ’03 recently joined Sentara Pediatric Physicians in Virginia Beach. Jennie received her M.D. degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School, completed her pediatric residency at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, N.C., and recently completed a master’s degree in public health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

George Mercer Brooke IV (’03 Ph.D.) received tenure at Virginia Military Institute, where he is a member of the physics faculty. He writes that he enjoys teaching the cadets and working with fabulous colleagues. He is the assistant superintendent’s representative to the Honor Court, a distinctive position at VMI that requires a lot of work. But he reports that as former cadet he takes the honor code very seriously at the school.

Alysha Fulkerson ’04 is an associate with the law firm of Pender & Coward in Virginia Beach. She focuses her practice on civil litigation and family law.

Kim Pickles (’04 M.E.A.) was appointed principal of Stonehouse Elementary School in June 2011 by Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools. She has 15 years of experience as a teacher and administrator, six of those with the W-JCCS system. She previously served as vice principal of D.J. Montague Elementary School.

Cmdr. F. Thomas Boross (M.P.A. ’06) was promoted to captain in the U.S. Coast Guard on Aug. 11, 2011. He has served as the Coast Guard’s Aviation Logistics Center executive officer since June 2010 in Elizabeth City, N.C., after serving as ALC’s chief engineer since July 2009. Boros is a career fixed-wing aviator with broad operational and aeronautical engineering officer experience. After graduating from ODU, he served as chief, aviation resources in the Office of Aeronautical Engineering at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C., from December 2006 to July 2009, where he managed the Coast Guard’s largest operating expense account, AFC-41, and monitored and regularly reported on the ALC’s $1.1 billion aviation materiel inventory control point balance.

Angela Millen ’06 received an M.S. in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in December 2010. She writes: “Apparently just in time, as I was eight months pregnant at graduation. I was glad to have graduate school behind me and to concentrate on my new family.”

Jay Anderfuren ’07 of Portsmouth is part-owner of a new company, AVAST, Audio-Visual and Security Technologies in Portsmouth, specializing in home theater and security systems. He can be contacted at jay@avasta.com.

Carol Devine ’08 recently began teaching as an adjunct faculty member at Tidewater Community College in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. “Know that receiving a bachelor’s degree through ODU assisted in obtaining this position,” she writes.

Tracie Hughes ’08 was appointed manager of the Downtown Roanoke Inc. Historic City Market. A native of Tazewell who lived in Roanoke in her youth, she had previously served as marketing coordinator for the Cultural Alliance of Greater Hampton Roads.

Kathleen Johnson ’08 received a Masters in Accounting from ODU in May 2011.

Elena Watson ’08 reports that she is accomplishing many of her career goals early on. She recently started as a defense trade controls analyst at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., after working as an analyst for the Navy International Programs Office and the Army’s Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense and developing a passion for international trade and activities. She hopes someday to pursue a graduate degree in international business or international policy. In her free time, Elena enjoys figure skating, a sport she started at the age of 8, and coaching skaters part time at the rink.

Nicole (Ange) Woodward ’08 (M.S. ’10) received her M.S. degree in environmental health at ODU’s College of Health Sciences in December 2010.

Whitney Metzger ’09 was chosen as one of the 2011 Top Forty Under 40 business people in Hampton Roads by the Inside Business weekly. The quality manager for Davis Interiors Ltd., she also does extensive community volunteer work, including serving on the board of directors for the d’Art Center and the Norfolk Collegiate Alumni Board. She is the organizer of Survive Norfolk and Urban Playground LLC.

Jessica Graham ’09 was accepted into the doctoral program in business administration, with a focus on industrial/organizational psychology, at Northcentral University.

Jeremy Bustin ’09 recently accepted a position at Newport News Shipbuilding located in Newport News, as public relations representative. He reports that after 11 years in sales positions and a great number of sacrifices to finish school and gain experience, he has completed the transition into his field of study by landing a mid-career position at NNS. His tasks will involve every as-
pect of public relations, from speech-writing and copywriting to events management. In addition, he is in the master’s program in strategic public relations at George Washington University.

Jen Nuzzo ’09 (M.B.A. ’11), a women’s basketball standout at ODU, has been named an assistant coach at Christopher Newport University under the interim head coach, Jon Waters. Nuzzo was a three-time CAA Academic All-Conference Team member.

Theresa Larsen ’10 was awarded the “Team Player of the Month” by the school board in Mathews, Va. She teaches music at Lee-Jackson Elementary, where her sister, Jessica Larsen ’11, also works.

Ashley Smith ’10 was chosen as one of the 2011 Top Forty Under 40 business people in Hampton Roads by the Inside Business weekly. She is a management analyst for SPAWAR Systems Center Atlantic in Norfolk, devising ways to improve the structure and efficiency of government projects. She also is the founder/executive director of the Queen of P.I.N.K. Pageant, a fundraiser in which all contestants are breast cancer survivors.

Aubreyana Buckner ’11 writes, “I graduated with a bachelor’s of science in nursing in August 2011. I am currently working as an RN at Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters on the hematology/oncology unit and love joining the fight against childhood cancer.”

Claudia Hines (Ph.D. ’11) presented a poster session at the American Psychological Association’s conference in August 2011 entitled “Use of Expressive Writing on Cognitions, Stress and Anxiety for a Sample of Urban High School Students Failing Mathematics.”

Jessica Larsen ’11 was hired upon graduation to teach first grade at Lee-Jackson Elementary in Mathews, Va.

A L U M N I   P R O F I L E

Changes of Course

Dallas Stamper ’95 Finds Satisfaction in Ministering to the Poor

“I was there in the beginning when it was just a vision, and seeing the vision come true is so exciting,” said Dallas Stamper, the president of PIN (People in Need) Ministry in Virginia Beach. Once a well-paid engineering manager for General Electric, Stamper now spends his time with drug addicts and campsite dwellers.

Graduating from Old Dominion in 1995 with a degree in engineering technology, Stamper quickly found a job at Idax, a small engineering firm in Norfolk. A few years later, the company gained notice for its freelance software work and was bought by General Electric. Stamper rose through the ranks of management, with superiors rewarding him for his leadership ability and hard work ethic.

Although he was earning a six-figure paycheck at GE, Stamper said he felt unfulfilled after he dedicated his life to Christ a decade ago. When he heard a sermon about Jesus befriending poor people, Stamper had an epiphany that made him want to do charity work. But he didn’t know where to start, he said. If he didn’t know any people in dire need, how could he show he loved homeless people like Jesus did?

So, Stamper, along with his wife, Anne, took sandwiches to a handful of homeless people at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. This was in 2002. Through word of mouth the ministry grew. In less than a year, PIN was providing meals to 60 people a week and by 2004 it had become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The organization needed full-time staff, and Stamper decided he was the man for the job. He was the driven co-founder and had the people skills to raise funds, but he also had a demanding job that supported his family in a comfortable lifestyle. Despite the difficult situations Stamper said that not for a minute has he regretted his decision to launch the ministries. One woman who now works as a receptionist in the PIN office used to be a crack cocaine addict and homeless. “Now every time I see her, it makes me happy,” he said.

PIN Ministry, a nonprofit organization, provides hot meals to the homeless, as well as clothing, hygiene supplies, access to medical and dental care and recovery groups, and renovated mobile homes that recovering families live in.

While in college, Stamper said, the thought never occurred to him that one day he would be running a nonprofit. When asked how the ministry had impacted his life he said, “It makes me more appreciative, even though I have less, because I see people who have nothing.”

-Megan Stamper, a third-year English/Journalism major at ODU.

The subject of the article is her father. She and her father are pictured above.

More about this work is at www.Pinministry.com.
MARRIED MONARCHS

Edward A. Forman ’74 and Sherry R. Pressman were married Sept. 18, 2011, in Dania Beach, Fla., at the International Game Fishing Association and Museum. After honeymooning in Key West, Ed and Sherry will split their time between Virginia Beach and Pembroke Pines, Fla.

Jim Dishman ’88 and Melissa Sites were married Sept. 18, 2011, in South Miami Beach, Fla. They currently reside in Lynchburg, Va. Jim is a project engineer for nuclear company Areva NP Inc. Melissa is employed by Weight Watchers International. He writes: “If any of my old friends from ODU are in the Lynchburg area, please look us up.”

Joseph Murray ’93 and Timothy Conroy are happy to announce their marriage on Oct. 31, 2011, at the SGI-USA Community Center, Buffalo, N.Y. Joe and Tim were married in a Buddhist ceremony on Halloween night, 40 years to the day from when they first met. Joe graduated first in the class of ’93; Tim is the former director of publications at ODU (1989–93).

Calvin Sneed ’04 and Lakeisha Leevy-Sneed ’05 were married March 4, 2006, in Northern Virginia. They currently reside in the Washington, D.C., metro area.

Jennifer Link ’07 (M.S.Ed. ’09) and Robert Haslip were married Sept. 17, 2011, in Hampton. They currently reside in Newport News.

Kathleen Johnson ’08 and Ryan Johnson ’08 were married on Oct. 22, 2010, in Chesapeake, Va. They currently reside in Suffolk, Va.

Theodore Leverett ’08 and Mallory Eversoll were married July 22, 2011, in Omaha, Neb. The groom is a train dispatcher with Union Pacific Railroad and the bride teaches in the Papillion-La Vista School District. They took an Alaskan cruise for their honeymoon and now live in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Nicole Ange Woodward ’08 (M.S. ’10) and Brandon Woodward were married Sept. 17, 2011, in Knots Island, N.C. They currently reside in Chesapeake.

Sabrina Vahle ’09 and Jason Easter announce their marriage on Oct. 8, 2011, in Great Neck Park, Virginia Beach. They currently reside in Chesapeake. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the Yacht Club at Marina Shores in Virginia Beach.

Arthur Kay ’10 and Ellis Pawson ’13 are happy to announce their marriage on Dec. 14, 2010, in Washington, D.C. They currently reside in Newport News.

Kelly Reed ’03 (M.S.Ed. ’08) and Craig Reed announce the birth of a daughter, Finley Belle Reed, on Sept. 1, 2011, in Virginia Beach.

Anthony Green ’04 and Shahan (Khan) Green ’07 announce the birth of a son, Mason Anthony Green, on Sept. 3, 2011, in Fairfax, Va.

Calvin Sneed ’04 and Lakeisha Leevy-Sneed ’05 announce the birth of a son, Calvin Ray Sneed. He was born in July 2009 in Reston, Va.


Meridyth Stilwell Hollingshead ’06 and Lt. Dan Hollingshead, USN, (M.E.M. ’10) announce the birth of a girl, Annette Kathryn. She was born at midnight on June 30, 2011.
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IN MEMORIAM

Monford M. Gregory Jr. ’36 of Chesapeake, 9/16/11
Bruce Bowden ’40 of Sun City, Ariz., 8/24/10
Robert R. Biggs ’46 of Virginia Beach, 8/9/11
James B. Dozier ’46 of Virginia Beach, 9/23/11
Claude W. Harrell III ’46 of Virginia Beach, 10/13/11
Edward Karp ’46 of Virginia Beach, 9/18/11
William M. Ballard ’47 of Virginia Beach, 8/29/11
Carson H. Bryant Jr. ’47 of Virginia Beach, 8/22/11
Lillian Lane ’47 of Kitty Hawk, N.C., 10/16/11
Percy L. “Mike” Host Jr. ’48 of Chesapeake, 11/9/11
Barry S. Fine ’50 of Chapel Hill, N.C., 8/7/11
Mary E. McDow ’52 of Chesapeake, 8/2/11
Philip A. Jaskowiak ’55 of Virginia Beach, 9/22/11
Alvin D. Doney Jr. ’57 of Norfolk, 8/7/11
Carlos E. Agnese ’60 of Norfolk, 11/14/11
Charles E. Tatem ’61 of Riverside, N.J., 2/12/11
Phyllis E. Godden ’63 (M.S.E. ’70) of Norfolk, 9/11/11
Woodrow W. Brock ’64 of Norfolk, 7/20/11
Sarah Hardiman Dillon ’64 of Virginia Beach, 11/12/11
Barbara T. Garrison ’64 of Virginia Beach, 9/20/11
Robert L. Johansen ’64 of Norfolk, 8/8/11
William C. Johnston ’64 of Smithfield, Va., 10/24/11
Timothy C. Cook ’68 of Virginia Beach, 10/4/11
Louis R. Whittley ’68 of Midlothian, Va., 10/22/11
William Leo Johnson III ’69 (M.S. ’73) of Bear, Del., 5/26/11
William P. Brunson (M.S.E. ’70) of Norfolk, 11/3/11
Jane S. “Patty” Hammit ’70 of Conroe, Texas, 10/28/11
William E. Plummer ’70 of Grassy Creek, N.C., 7/3/11
Carol L. Sutherland (M.S.E. ’70) of Norfolk, 8/20/11
Rev. Edwin R. Weidler (M.S.E. ’70) of Tarpon Springs, Fla., 10/15/11
Carolyn R. Dodson ’71 of Virginia Beach, 10/27/11
Betty B. Rawls ’72 of Suffolk, Va., 10/7/11
Nita F. Meecie ’73 (M.S. ’94) of Virginia Beach, 11/14/11
Archibald M. Brown ’74 (M.S.E. ’83) of Virginia Beach, 11/12/11
Capt. Robert Hailey (M.S.E. ’74) of Williamsburg, 9/26/11
Robert L. Wolfe ’75 of Norfolk, 8/23/11
Gary M. Nance ’76 of Virginia Beach, 9/12/11
Sarah B. Hoover ’78 of Greensboro, N.C., 10/8/11
John M. McClane ’78 of Virginia Beach, 7/1/11
Maureen S. Tyner ’80 of Virginia Beach, 10/8/11
Rita Kern Voke ’80 of Norfolk, 11/12/11
Ross E. Shank ’81 of Virginia Beach, 8/7/11
George F. Wescott ’82 of Chesapeake, 10/4/11
Hilery T. Whitehurst Jr. ’82 of Summerville, S.C., 10/8/11
Lt. Cmdr. Daniel E. Judy ’85 of Branford, Fla., 10/7/11
Kerry McDaniel ’85 of Chesapeake, 9/17/11
Deborah Marlo Brown Wigg ’94 of Suffolk, 11/8/11
Robert L. Wigg ’95 of Virginia Beach, 11/8/11
Russell W. Lewis ’96 of Bedford, Texas, 5/11/11
Katherine E. Leblanc ’97 of Virginia Beach, 10/14/11
Jenelle L. Boyette ’07 of Hampton, 10/13/11
Angela G. Locke ’08 of Virginia Beach, 8/7/11
Frank Foster (Honorary Doctorate of Music ’09) of Chesapeake, 7/26/11

IN REMEMBRANCE

Willard Chabot Frank Jr.

Willard Chabot Frank Jr., professor emeritus of history at Old Dominion University, died Sept. 2, 2011, in Norfolk. He was 75 years old.

Frank received a bachelor’s degree from Brown University in 1957, a master’s from the College of William and Mary in 1962 and a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1968. As a veteran of the Navy, he joined the ODU history department in 1963, where for 48 years he taught a wide range of courses with a particular focus on the Spanish Civil War. He published many scholarly papers and articles and was the editor of several books about Spanish, Soviet, German and Italian military-political history.

Additionally, he wrote about international relations, the American Revolution and religious freedom in America. As a yet untutored professor, Frank was called an “irresponsible sensationalist” for championing the controversial cause of academic freedom. Despite this label, he led reflective, philosophical and ethical discussions focused on the troubling issues of segregation, nuclear weapons, communism, free speech and civil liberties in American society.

Later, as a senior professor, Frank extolled the emergence of ODU as a large, multi-ethnic, international university that served as a forum for the free interchange of ideas where students gain knowledge, discernment and compassion in learning to think for themselves and make tough decisions facing society.

Although Frank retired in 2004, he continued to teach classes at ODU and at the Naval War College. His lifelong political activism included efforts to desegregate Norfolk public schools in 1959 and later he became an outspoken champion of the anti-Vietnam War movement.

“Will Frank combined a dedication to scholarship with a love of teaching and a commitment to his community,” said Douglas Greene, professor and history department chair. “I am privileged that he was my colleague and friend.”

Frank was a devoted appreciator of the arts and culture, with a particular love of music. He and his second wife, Mary Ranger Scripp, a musician herself, were regular attendees of the symphony and the opera. In addition to his wife, he is survived by Peter Frank, his stepsons, Lawrence Scripp and Kenneth Scripp, and his beloved step-granddaughters, Ashima Scripp and Miranda Scripp.

Thomas Harris

Thomas Lewis Harris of Norfolk, professor emeritus of educational leadership and counseling at Old Dominion, died Oct. 4, 2011, at the age of 82. He was a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force while in Texas and a faculty member at ODU for 26 years.

Harris joined the faculty in 1967 as an associate professor. He served as graduate program director in guidance and counseling for 13 years and became a tenured professor in 1980.

During his years at ODU, Harris was instrumental in developing an Advanced Certificate Program in Counseling, undergraduate and doctoral programs in counseling, and other certificates in specialized areas of counseling.

He worked with local public schools, industry and community agencies in improving their counseling services for clients. Through his commitment, counseling gained stature as an important academic discipline within and outside the university.

Harris received a B.S. degree in 1950 from East Carolina University, a certificate in 1952 from Denver University, an M.A. in 1957 from ECU and a doctorate in 1968 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Angela S. Harris; two daughters, Linda Shaw and Emily Harris Hagan; and grandchildren Michael, Benjamin and Laura Hagan.

Violet Kathryn Breneiser

Violet Kathryn Breneiser, a former faculty member in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Old Dominion University, died in Norfolk on Nov. 11, 2011.

Breneiser was born Feb. 26, 1923, in Fort Wayne, Ind. She was predeceased by her husband, Eliot Breneiser, a retired ODU music professor who died in 1998, and two brothers, Donald and Wayne.

She taught at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, and in 1951 joined the faculty at Old Dominion, known at the time as the Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary, as a lecturer of Spanish. Breneiser was awarded the rank of assistant professor in 1956 and retired from ODU in 1986.

During her 35-year teaching career at the university, she served as the chief adviser for Spanish majors and as the university supervisor for student teachers in Spanish. She also served several terms in the Faculty Senate.

She was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Indiana University and a University Scholar at the University of Wisconsin. Breneiser was a Norfolk Master Gardener, a member of the Cape Henry Audubon Society and a longtime volunteer at Norfolk Botanical Garden.

George J. Hebert ‘38


He was born in Norfolk, Oct. 21, 1920, and took classes at Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary/Virginia Tech, which became ODU.

In January 1939, he went to work as mail boy at Norfolk Newspapers Inc., and had become a court reporter by the time World War II began.

Hebert enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in December 1941, attended radio school at Scott Field, Ill., and then went to Officer Candidate School at Miami Beach, Fla., graduating as second lieutenant. He attended the Royal Air Force school for flying controllers and had control-tower posts at various American air fields. His group of C-47s dropped paratroopers in France on D-Day. He was discharged as a captain in 1946, soon after having married Margaret Ellen Coppen of Boston, England. She died in 1979.

He returned to The Ledger-Dispatch in Norfolk, which later became The Ledger-Star, as a business news reporter in 1946 and in 1971 became editor, a post he held for 16 years before he retired. He took up archaeology as an amateur in 1975, participating in a number of excavations and serving several terms on the Archeological Society of Virginia board.

In 1980, he married Donna Jean (Moore) Sanford of Owosso, Mich. She was president of the Michigan Archeological Society; they had met at an archaeological conference in Ann Arbor, Mich. After spending 24 years together in Norfolk, they moved to Owosso, where she continues to reside.

He was a former member of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Norfolk, where he served on the vestry and as junior warden. He had held memberships in the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the National Conference of Editorial Writers and Sigma Delta Chi (Society of Professional Journalists).

Hebert had two daughters, Mrs. Glenn S. (Ellen C.) Maxwell, who predeceased him in 2009, of Salem, Va., and Christine A. Hebert of Wilmington, N.C.; two granddaughters, Jennifer Glenn Maxwell of Roanoke, Va., and Sarah Catherine Maxwell of Salem; a stepson, Peter T. Sanford of Inver Grove Heights, Minn.; a stepdaughter, Dr. Christy Sanford of Golden Valley, Minn.; and five stepgrandchildren.

Rhea L. Walker Jr.

Rhea Lee Walker Jr. of Virginia Beach, who played football nearly 80 years ago for the Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary/Virginia Tech, predecessor of ODU, died Sept. 28, 2011.

He was a star halfback on the Norfolk Division football team from 1932 to 1934. The school disbanded its football program in 1940 and did not start it up again until nearly seven decades later. Walker, nicknamed “Scooter” by legendary coach Tommy Scott because of his speed, was the oldest of the 1930s-era players to be at Foreman Field at S.B. Ballard Stadium on Sept. 5, 2009, when the modern-era football team played its first game.

Rhea worked for 50 years with Hall Hodges Co., retiring as vice president. He was a founder and charter member of Community United Methodist Church. He was a past master of Owens Lodge, past president of the Builders and Contractors Exchange and the Cosmopolitan Club, a member of the Kempsville Ruritan Club and Princess Anne Country Club, and served on the Planning Commission of Princess Anne County.

He was predeceased by his wife of 71 years, Nellie Carrow Walker. He is survived by two sons, Rhea L. Walker III and wife Patricia of Walters, Va., and Robert R. Walker and wife Cindy of Virginia Beach; a grandson, Lee B. Walker of Virginia Beach; three granddaughters, Byerley W. Myers and husband James of Chesterfield, Va., Jennifer L. Walker of Virginia Beach, and Lindsey D. Scanlon and husband Rick of Stafford, Va.; and two great-grandchildren, Bailey and Banks Myers.

Louis Burke “Hickie” Smith

Louis Burke “Hickie” Smith, 94, a three-sport athlete for the Norfolk Division of William and Mary from 1936-38 and a member of the Old Dominion University Sports Hall of Fame, died Dec. 12, 2011, in Virginia Beach. He played football, baseball and track and field for the school that was to become ODU.

He dominated track and field events, scoring in all but one event he competed in and never losing in the high and low hurdles.

Smith set the state record in the Virginia AAU track and field meet in 1938 for the broad jump of 22-8. That record lasted until 1941, when it was broken by another Old Dominion Hall of Famer, Johnny Brown, at 22-11. Smith averaged 15 points or more in each meet he participated.

Smith and Brown were old-timer football legends who were honored in 2009 when ODU restarted its football program after a 69-year hiatus. While he was attending college, however, Smith was better known for his feats in track and field. On one weekend in 1938, the Division’s student newspaper, the High Hat, noted Smith’s times and distances were comparable and better than varsity participants in track meets at William and Mary, VMI, Virginia and Hampden-Sydney.

In the 1937 state AAU meet, Smith placed first in the broad jump, second in the high jump and third in the high jump.

As an outfielder, Smith led the baseball team in hitting in 1937 and later played semi-pro baseball. He played both offense and defense for the 1937 football squad.

After completing his career at the Norfolk Division, Smith served his country in the Army during World War II. He retired from the Naval Air Rework Facility in 1972.

Smith was born in South Norfolk, the son of the late William Burke Smith and Helen Ostrandrer Smith.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Lula Baker Smith, and stepson, Frederick B. Higgins Jr. He is survived by his wife, Ethel Fortune Smith; his sons, William B. Smith and wife Mary of Lansing, Mich., and David B. Smith and wife Dale of Virginia Beach; grandchildren Justin V. Smith and wife, Carly of Charleston, W.Va.; Karen E. Smith and Brian S. Smith of Virginia Beach; and stepgrandchildren, W. Booth Higgins and wife Jennifer of Portsmouth, R.I., and Rebecca Lanahan of Spring City, Pa.; and stepgreat-grandchildren, L. Booth Higgins, Audrey Higgins, Zachary Higgins, Max Higgins and Nicholas Lanahan.
What a Fall! Football, Field Hockey and More

BY WOOD SELIG, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

We had one of the most successful fall sports campaigns in the history of Old Dominion University, finishing 19th nationally in the Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup standings, one spot below Villanova, one spot above U.Va., and tied with Indiana and Wake Forest for overall fall success.

Team Success

Three of four fall teams advanced to NCAA postseason play. Our young football program entered its first season of Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) competition picked in the preseason media and coaches poll to finish 10th out of 11 teams. By the end of the regular season, and with a 9-2 record, ODU had swept in-state CAA rivals William and Mary, JMU and Richmond, and added victories over Hampton and Norfolk State, making the Monarchs clearly one of the best football teams in the state this year. Coach Bobby Wilder’s team earned our program’s first FCS playoff bid and a convincing win over cross-town rival Norfolk State propelled us into the second round against six-time FCS national champion Georgia Southern. The Monarchs put on a thrilling offensive show, despite the tough 55-48 loss. The postseason honors continued for the football program, and congratulations are due to Wilder on earning Coach of the Year recognition from College Sports Madness, and to Ronnie Cameron and Jonathan Plisco on their All-America honors.

Coach Beth Anders led the field hockey program to its 17th NCAA Final Four appearance, after being ranked No. 1 in the nation for most of the year. The Lady Monarchs captured the CAA crown, then downed Ohio State and Duke in the NCAA tournament to advance to the semifinals against Maryland. Anders was named the CAA Coach of the Year, while Emma Batten, Kati Nearhouse and Stephanie Kratzer earned All-America honors and Kelsey Smither was named the National Freshman of the Year. ODU will host the 2012 and 2013 NCAA national championships in field hockey at the Powhatan Sports Complex.

Our men’s soccer team, under the leadership of 15-year head coach Alan Dawson, advanced to the NCAA tournament for the eighth time in the last 10 years, defeating Liberty on penalty kicks in the first round before losing to Indiana in the second round. Coach Dawson’s Monarchs have advanced to the second round in each of their last eight NCAA tournaments. All-American Yannick Smith was a finalist for the prestigious Herman Award in college soccer.

Men’s basketball posted impressive early wins over Big East member South Florida and East Carolina of Conference USA. A national television audience also saw the team play well in a loss to powerful Kentucky.

ODU has been selected to host the NCAA Women’s Basketball first and second rounds, on March 17 and 19. I hope many of you will support this event with the purchase of tickets.

The wrestling Monarchs upset eight-time NCAA champion Iowa State on Nov. 20 in front of a record crowd of 1,526 fans, and our men’s swimming team got off to a great start, with senior Arni Arnason owning the nation’s eighth fastest 100 breaststroke time this season.

Several of our student athletes were recognized as
CoSIDA district Academic All-Americans for their performances in the classroom and on the playing fields, including Jonathan Plisco of football, and Jocelyn Weidner and Amber Cook of women’s soccer.

Thank you to our fans, donors and sponsors

For the third consecutive year, Monarch fans helped us sell out every home football game, including our FCS playoff game with Norfolk State. We now have a 21-game sellout streak and look forward to adding six more sellouts next season. Our playoff game outdrew the other three FCS first round games combined – quite a statement from our 12th Monarch contingent – and we added more than 800 people to our football waiting list the week of the NSU game. There are now more than 3,500 people waiting to purchase football season tickets.

We are on track to break last year’s Athletic Foundation annual fund numbers of $2.69 million, thanks to donations from more than 2,600 ODAF members, and to complete 2011 with more than $5 million in gifts and endowment support for athletics. Our athletic fundraising team, led by Mark Benson, has also been successful in getting us nearly halfway toward our $8 million goal needed to break ground on a new basketball practice facility, as well as in raising nearly $500,000 for renovations to the Bud Metheny Baseball Complex.

And, a big thanks to Old Dominion University Sports Properties and our corporate partners, whose sponsorship support has enhanced our football and basketball game experiences and contributed more than $1.9 million in gross revenue for athletics in 2011.

Our success is due to the support of all of you, and on behalf of the entire ODU athletic staff, coaches and student-athletes, we thank you and wish you a very happy new year. Go Monarchs!

(From left) Batten, Kratzer and Nearhouse.

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Monarchs Among the Best in Baseball

Verlander Enters the 2012 Season at the Pinnacle, Hudson Wants to Join Him

BY MARK BROWN (MA '72)

(Editor’s Note: With the 2012 Major League Baseball season fast approaching, we asked ODU alum Mark Brown, a writer headquartered in Arizona who often reports on professional baseball, to give us a close look at two of the best pitchers in the majors—Monarch greats Justin Verlander and Daniel Hudson.)

There wasn’t much fame that Detroit Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander failed to claim during the 2011 major league season. Cy Young Award for the American League. Most wins in the majors. A no-hitter. And to top it all off, being named the Most Valuable Player in his league.

The former Monarch great has reached the pinnacle of major league pitching, and he just may be showing the way for another hurler who made headlines for Old Dominion University after Verlander left to turn professional. That would be Daniel Hudson of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

From their playing days at ODU during the past decade, it was a safe bet to assume that each was going to the major leagues, and with Verlander ahead of Hudson by two years on campus, they set the standard by which the ODU baseball program is now measured.

Verlander, who graduated from Goochland High School outside of Richmond, quickly ascended to the elite ranks of college baseball after he suited up for ODU in 2002. As Freshman of the Year in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), Verlander topped the league in ERA, fanned 137 batters in 113.2 innings and set a school record at the time with 17 strikeouts in a game against James Madison.

At the start of his sophomore year, Verlander was named as a preseason All-American by the publication Baseball America and led the CAA in strikeouts. A member of Team USA in the Pan American games, he compiled a 5-1 mark, and a 1.29 ERA in international competition.

As a junior, he led the Monarchs into the CAA postseason, and became the Detroit Tigers’ first pick, and second overall, in the 2004 First Year Player Draft. For his three years with the Monarchs, Verlander owns school, CAA and state of Virginia strikeout records.

Verlander’s impact was prodigious. His efforts helped propel the Monarchs into yearly postseason contention, and the spirit and elan the 6-5, 225-pound pitcher exuded clearly inspired athletes who followed.

“Justin put us on the map, and he set the standard for all of us,” Hudson said. “We were able to feed off what he did. Justin set the bar.”
A pitcher by trade, Dipoto played for Virginia Commonwealth University in the late 1980s and was a second-round pick of the Cleveland Indians in the 1989 First Year Player Draft. Familiar with schools and players in the Tidewater region, Dipoto did not hesitate to acquire Hudson and immediately recognized his potential.

"With Daniel, it's his makeup and character which stand out," Dipoto said. "His work ethic is outstanding, and he just wants to beat you. He's highly competitive and he expects perfection out of himself."

"Great work ethic and highly competitive," said Arizona pitching coach Charles Nagy in describing Hudson. "Sometimes, he fights himself and gets frustrated, but Daniel is a great talent. In time, he'll learn to overcome this. Many times, you find your way through experience and Daniel is still very young."

With Verlander turning 29 at the start of spring training, and Hudson at 25 in early March, each has productive years ahead.

Verlander finished last season with a 24-5 record, 2.40 ERA and also as the American League leader in innings pitched and strikeouts. The no-hitter he threw against the Toronto Blue Jays last May was the second of his career. In the postseason, he led the Tigers into the American League Championship Series against the Texas Rangers, and was the Game Five winner.

Winning both the MVP and Cy Young awards amounted to an almost unheard of achievement for Verlander. A league MVP usually is a position player; no starting pitcher has won both awards since Boston's Roger Clemens did it in 1986. "If you had told me at the beginning of the year I would be a shoo-in for the Cy Young, I would have been excited and ecstatic. I would've never even thought about the MVP," Verlander said on his Cy Young conference call with news reporters.

What will the 2012 season hold for Verlander and Hudson? Monarch Nation has been following these two guys for quite a while now, and has every reason to believe that both will have stellar years.

Mark Brown, who earned a Master of Arts degree at Old Dominion University, is a freelance writer based in the Phoenix, Ariz., area.
Legendary Coach Beth Anders to Retire after 2012 Season

Beth Anders, who has been 29 seasons at the helm of the Old Dominion University field hockey program and whose teams have won an NCAA-record nine national championships, announced early this year that she will retire after the 2012 season.

Her earlier stated intention to leave after the 2011 season was erased by an outpouring of requests that she stay for a 30th year.

“I have been very touched by all the calls and letters I have received from former and current players this week, as well as people throughout the field hockey world and the ODU community. I also appreciate the support I have received from President John Broderick and (Athletic Director) Dr. (Wood) Selig, who have asked me to postpone my retirement. As a result, I have decided to remain at ODU for one more year and I look forward to coaching the 2012 team,” Anders said in January.

She will serve as a consultant for the field hockey program from January through June of 2013, and participate in the search for her successor.

“This is terrific news for all ODU field hockey alumni, our current field hockey student-athletes and all field hockey fans in general,” said Selig. “Having Beth return for one final season will provide a wonderful opportunity for all those associated with our field hockey program to enjoy one more year with one of the best head coaches to ever coach.”

Anders has led the Lady Monarchs to the NCAA tournament in 27 seasons and is widely considered to be one of the elite coaches in intercollegiate athletics. Under her tutelage, Old Dominion has achieved more honors than any other field hockey program in NCAA history. Her teams have won the CAA crown 15 times and made 17 appearances in the NCAA Final Four.

Anders has consistently made contributions throughout her life to field hockey. As a player, she participated at every level possible, including World Cup and Olympic events. Her teams have excelled not only on the field, but also in the classroom. Since 1989, the Lady Monarch field hockey teams have finished with a GPA of 3.0 or better. In 2009, her team boasted the highest GPA among all Division I field hockey programs, compiling a team average of 3.51.
Homecoming 2012
Save the Date: Saturday, October 13 vs. Villanova
WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON BEING
OPEN TO THE WORLD

From research and teaching to study abroad and humanitarian work, Old Dominion University’s reach is truly global.

As you’ll read in this issue of Monarch, Old Dominion students, faculty and alumni are engaged around the world. Moreover, international students and faculty bring a cosmopolitan flavor to our campus here in Hampton Roads. Old Dominion has long prided itself on being open to the world. With one of the largest enrollments of international students in Virginia, hundreds of study abroad and exchange program destinations, and partnerships with internationally focused organizations such as NATO, we are already heavily invested in global thinking and activities.

But our goal is to expand these international connections even further.

If the globalization of our economy, culture and technology has underscored anything for us, it is the necessity for our students to have a well-rounded understanding of world cultures in order to achieve personal and professional success.

At Old Dominion, professors bring their world experiences into the classroom and, as you will read in this issue, their classroom into the world.

Our researchers conduct transnational collaboration in the discovery of new ideas and advancement of cutting-edge solutions. At ODU’s Frank Reidy Research Center for Bioelectrics, for example, some of the sharpest minds from Russia, Germany, China and the U.S. sit side-by-side in their quest for cancer therapies, wound healing remedies and decontamination solutions.

A large cohort of international students – more than 1,100 from 111 countries – brings the world to Norfolk. We are all immeasurably enriched by the exposure to so many different cultures, ideas and experiences. At ODU, they come together to create a world of new possibilities. Indeed, that is the essence of the university’s tagline, “Idea Fusion.”

On a personal note, I’ve been fortunate to get to know many international students, and two in particular – Kevin Muchiri, a graduate student in engineering management from Kenya, and Ziniya Zahedi, a senior marketing major from Bangladesh – have grown close to me and my family during their time at Old Dominion. They have taught me fascinating things about their cultures and important details about their countries. I have met Kevin’s family, and Ziniya even refers to me as her “American dad.”

These relationships, whether mine or those formed daily by others across the campus, make the world smaller and bring our understanding to new levels. The possibilities this opens for our communities, our country and the world are endless.

–John R. Broderick, President
Old Dominion University
Every year, out of the blue, we learn about a bequest to Old Dominion University. News comes by way of a letter from the probating attorney or the executor of the estate. Of course, we receive the announcement with gladness and gratitude...but also regret, because we’re unable to personally thank the donor for the gift.

Giving thanks is a big part of what we do at Old Dominion University, and we take this role seriously. It is one of our greatest pleasures. We relish being able to look a donor in the eye and say, “Thank you for your commitment to Old Dominion. We would not exist without the help of you and other donors who give so generously to this institution. And to know that you have included us in your will not only delights us, but helps us plan for students of the future with greater confidence. Thank you, thank you!”

We know why some of you, our alumni and friends, prefer to remain anonymous: You think you will be pestered by additional solicitations during life. You wish not to share your intentions with those close to you, or you may want to quietly withdraw the bequest should you need the funds during your lifetime.

Our planned giving staff honors the wishes of our donors, and we take care to provide confidentiality when requested, especially in delicate estate-planning matters. We want you to know that we work hard to honor and respect personal concerns and wishes.

The advantage to ODU of knowing about a future gift is the opening it provides to express our sincere gratitude and to make sure that we keep you up-to-date on activities and planning developments. We want you “in the loop” so you will continue to have confidence that your legacy gift will be well-received and prudently applied.

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

March

15-17, 22-24 “Idiots Karamozov”
Monarch Theatre, March 15, 16, 17, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. and March 24 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Tickets: $15 students, $20 general admission

17 Harold Protsman Annual Classical Period Piano Competition
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center, 2:30 p.m.

18 Master Class with Andrew Willis for Winners of the Protsman Classical Period Piano Competition
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center, 3 p.m.

19 Diehn Concert - Pianist Andrew Willis with the ODU Orchestra
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $10 students, $15 general admission

April

2 ODU Brass Choir
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

11-14 University Dance Theatre Spring Concert
Old Dominion University Theatre, April 11, 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. and April 14 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Tickets: $10 students, $12 general admission

12-28 “Arabian Nights”
Monarch Theatre, April 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 26 and 27 at 8 p.m. and April 14 and 28 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Tickets: $15 students, $20 general admission

16 Faculty Recital - Norfolk Chamber Consort, “From Jewish Folk Poetry”
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center, pre-concert lecture at 7:15 p.m., concert at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $9 students, $22 general admission (from the Norfolk Chamber Consort)

17 ODU Orchestra, featuring Young Artist Competition Winners and Brahms Symphony No. 1
University Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

22 ODU Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Choir with Guest Artist Rich Perry
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center, 4 p.m.

May

4-5 Spring Commencement
(http://www.odu.edu/ao/commencement)

Graduating Student Showcase
Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries, May 26 – June 23, Tuesday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.

June

1 Community Music Division, Hampton Roads Youth Wind Ensemble Concert
University Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Combat Paper Project
Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries, June 30 – Sept. 8, Tuesday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.

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