

## GSO REBOOT INFORMATION

On October 22, 2015, an interest meeting for the reboot of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) was held. During the meeting, a variety of topics were discussed, including identifying what is important to graduate students, what GSO should aim to do as an organization, and where the organization should grow from here.

First, we identified that graduate students have different expectations of an organization than undergraduate students. Of greatest importance is more recognition of graduate research which could lead to identifying more resources. There was also a consensus drawn that GSO should become a reliable network across all disciplines for graduate students.

As of right now, the GSO hopes to have at least one social event per month which should provide graduate students the opportunity to network and support each other. Suggested events include outings to Tides and Admirals games, general networking events, weekly dinners, BBQ's, game nights, and brown bag events. Also professional development op-

portunities were suggested, including hosting workshops on grant writing, CVs, interviewing, and conferences. Tentatively, the events are scheduled for late January, February, and mid-April.

To get started, we have to identify officers for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations Chair along with 10 additional members. We also have to update the by-laws. If you are interested in getting involved, please send an e-mail to: [officeofgradstudies@odu.edu](mailto:officeofgradstudies@odu.edu).

## GRADUATE FUNDING

**Sponsor: CalEPA**

**Amount: \$50,000 USD**

**Abstract:** Grant applicants are asked to demonstrate in their applications how their projects will address one or more of the following goals in communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution or are especially sensitive to environmental pollution due to socio-economic factors e.g. Improving Access to Safe and Clean Water. [http://pivot.cos.com/funding\\_opps/161950](http://pivot.cos.com/funding_opps/161950)

**Pivot** is a platform that focuses on identifying and connecting funding opportunities to researchers and institutions.

Link: [pivot.cos.com](http://pivot.cos.com)

**Grants.gov** is an E-Government initiative operating under the governance of the Office of Management and Budget to provide a centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding opportunities.

Link: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

## ELECTRONIC

## THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

In the Spring of this year, a pilot program was started for the electronic submittal of theses and dissertations. The pilot program gradually expanded from two departments and just two or three students to more than nine students for Spring 2015. In summer 2015, more than 20 students submitted their theses and dissertations to ProQuest electronically. Submitting electronically allows for a quicker processing time, an exact representation of media, submission of alternative file types like videos, and the saving of shelf space. All theses and dissertations will be stored in ODU's Digital Commons. If you have any questions about this process, see the new Thesis and Dissertation guide on the side bar at: <http://odu.edu/graduatestudies>.

## DATES AND DEADLINES

**December 10, 2015**  
Advanced Degree Luncheon  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Webb Center

Hampton/Newport News Room

**December 11, 2015**  
Completed Master's Theses Due

**December 24, 2015**  
University Closes for Winter Break

**January 5, 2016**  
New Graduate Student Orientation  
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM  
Webb Center, North Cafeteria

**January 6, 2016**  
SPEAK Retest  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Constant Hall, Room 1002

**January 7, 2016**  
GTAI Institute Day 1  
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Constant Hall, Room 1002

**January 8, 2016**  
GTAI Institute Day 2  
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Constant Hall

## DID YOU KNOW...

The Office of Graduate Studies is now on Facebook! Through our Facebook page we will provide quick announcements, post photos of recent events and answer any quick questions.

Please like us at:  
<http://fb.com/ODUGS>

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ALICE JONES



Most people know Alice Jones as the Associate Director for Student and Alumni Programs in Career Development Services, however, Ms. Jones is also a recent ODU alum. She received her master's degree in Lifespan & Digital Communication in May 2015. Ms. Jones is the subject of our Alumni Spotlight because of her career and academic achievements.

Ms. Jones' path to success began when she earned her bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Though her career began as a school teacher, she had greater aspirations. She went back

to school and earned her masters' degree in Higher Education from Miami University. While working on her master's degree, she took advantage of all of the opportunities her schedule could handle, including residence hall director, academic advisor, and career development teacher. She also pursued internships and volunteered often. Once she earned her master's degree she held positions in higher education at the College of New Rochelle and St. John's University.

In 2003, she began her career at Old Dominion University. About four years ago, a new program caught her attention. When the Lifespan & Digital Communication master's program was first established, Ms. Jones wanted to learn more about it in order to be able to better advise and assist students. The more she learned about the program, the more it got her attention, and she decided to enroll. Ms. Jones' success is further demonstrated through the positive response to a paper she submitted based on her thesis. Her thesis is titled "Work across the Generations: Communication Narratives of Stay-At-Home Fathers." Not only was she asked to go to Las Vegas to present her paper at a

conference, the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender considered her thesis to be one of the most outstanding of the year for 2015 and Ms. Jones received an award.

Ms. Jones is married and has three daughters and one son. Ms. Jones attributes her success largely to finding her passion early on and allowing it to guide her. "If you have an opportunity,...test the waters. See what makes sense." She also says prioritization and time management are important. She recommends finding the right balance, keeping the lines of communication open, and explaining what you are doing. "Sometimes," she says, "when I am working on a paper, I'll bounce ideas off of my daughters. They always have a valuable perspective." Keeping her family involved not only helps to keep her on track but it allows them to share in her accomplishments. Though Ms. Jones fits the definition of a non-traditional student, non-traditional students are what most graduate students are today.

What does Ms. Jones have planned for the future? She plans to continue working at ODU and possibly pursuing a Ph.D. in the future. One thing is certain, she'll be pursuing her passion.

## COMMONWEALTH GRADUATE EDUCATION DAY



Amanda Huynh, Alexandria Early, Tiffany Henley, Ashlee Edwards, Jamila Glover, and Paryn Grodi

The Virginia Council of Graduate Schools (VCGS) hosted its first Commonwealth Graduate Education Day on Friday, October 30, 2015 at Virginia Commonwealth University. The purpose of this event was to provide an opportunity students at community colleges or students just beginning to pursue four-year degrees to learn about graduate school. Students were able to talk with graduate students about their research or their paths to graduate school and participate in panel discussions with students and faculty. Many success stories were shared. Old Dominion University had four graduate students attend, Amanda Huynh, Alexandria Early, Tiffany Henley, and Ashlee Edwards. Two undergraduate students also attended, Jamila Glover and Paryn Grodi. There were about 125 undergraduate students from across Virginia participating in the event. VCGS intends to follow-up with all of the undergraduate students and encourages everyone to like their Facebook page. You can find the VCGS Facebook page at <http://fb.com/VACGS>.

Find GRADUATE NEWS online at [www.odu.edu/graduatestudies](http://www.odu.edu/graduatestudies).

ODU graduate student Eric White compiled and edited this newsletter with help from Dr. Robert Wojtowicz and Missy Barber in the Office of Graduate Studies.

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Office of Graduate Studies