

## INTRODUCING THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

By DR. ROBERT WOJTCOWICZ

### DID YOU KNOW?

As of the Fall 2016 semester, all theses and dissertations must be submitted electronically to ProQuest.

The University changed from a paper submission process to a digital submission process because 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/graduateschool>.

### GET YOUR ORCID!

ORCID is a unique universal identification number for researchers and scholars, similar to a university identification number or a social security number. The ORCID was created to provide a mechanism for tracking an individual's scholarly research, scholarship, and innovation. By having a unique identifier, it ensures that the proper researcher gets credit for the work. It is used by ProQuest, the University's institutional repository in the University Library, as well as scholarly journals. The ORCID can also be used on grant proposals. All faculty and graduate students are encouraged to register.

Sign up for an ORCID today at <https://orcid.org/register>.

For more information: <https://orcid.org/content/about-orcid>.



On July 1, 2016, the Office of Graduate Studies officially became known as the Graduate School. More than just a name change, the Graduate School has been entrusted with a number of important responsibilities:

- Advocating for graduate education both inside and outside the University;
- Collaborating with the Office of Graduate Admissions to ensure that marketing, recruitment, communication, and admission materials are appropriate for each graduate program;
- Managing the graduate student continuance process;
- Coordinating the submission of theses and dissertations in conjunction with the Office of the University Registrar and University Libraries;
- Overseeing the graduate health insurance program;
- Administering curricular and catalog changes with programs and departments;
- Developing interdisciplinary graduate degree initiatives;
- Working with the Office of Research to raise the University's research profile as it relates to graduate education; and
- Supporting graduate student activities.

Joining the staff of the Graduate School as associate dean is Dr. Bryan Porter, who is also a professor of psychology. In addition, two provost's fellows have been appointed in the Graduate School: Dr. Wie Yusuf, associate professor of public service, who will focus on graduate education and strategic planning; and Dr. Wayne Hynes, professor of biological sciences, who will examine biomedical initiatives. Together with our program administrator, Ms. Missy Barber, we are working to provide you with an enhanced graduate experience.

### DATES AND DEADLINES

October 14, 2016

PFF Event  
Technology, Techniques and Tips  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Learning Commons 1310 - 1311

October 15, 2016

GSO Social @ AMF on Little Creek Rd  
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
[Groupon Link](#)

October 25, 2016

GSO Electronic Thesis/Dissertation  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Library Training Room 1306

November 10, 2016

Wordpress Workshop  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Gornto 101

November 11, 2016

PFF Event  
Technology, Techniques and Tips  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Learning Commons 1310 - 1311

November 11, 2016

GSO Social @ Dirty Buffalo  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

# MEET DR. BRYAN PORTER: ASSOCIATE DEAN



A lot has changed with the transition into the Graduate School. One of the most welcomed additions is Dr. Bryan Porter, the new Associate Dean of the Graduate School. He came to the Graduate School from the psychology department, but has actually been heavily involved with graduate education here at Old Dominion University for many years.

His B.S. in psychology is from Virginia Tech in 1990 where graduated a semester early.

His diligence was rewarded with the only break from education he has had since. Those nine months eliminated any doubts about pursuing a higher degree. When the wait was over, he attended the University of Memphis and earned his M.S. in psychology in 1994. Two years later, he earned his Ph.D. in experimental psychology. He came to Old Dominion University only 48 hours after graduating and has been here ever since. Dr. Porter's first ten years at ODU consisted mostly of undergraduate teaching. Then, in 2004, he helped develop what is now known as the applied psychological sciences concentration. It was in this year that he shifted more towards graduate students in terms of teaching and mentorship. Throughout his entire career thus far, he has actively built a research program and team, effectively bringing in funding and working with both undergraduate and graduate research assistants. His primary area of research is injury control, particularly how large-scale behavioral interventions can change risky-driving and pedestrian behaviors.

Beyond psychology, he was involved in reforming general education, exploring how to expand the e-Portfolio system, developing the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP), and more. His first leap into administration was in 2010 when he became the Graduate Program Director for three different psychology concentrations. His focus became policy making, graduate student continuance and the like. For the previous two years before becoming Associate Dean he served as the chair for the College of Sciences' GPDs and sat on the Graduate Administrators' Council.

Now, having just completed his 20th year with ODU, he dawns a new role in administration starting this 2016-2017 school year. Each of his activities in teaching, research, and service have prepared him for this new opportunity. Beside professional changes, other more personal changes were made in a number of noteworthy areas of his life including fashion sense. Laughing, Dr. Porter recounts how his students used to interpret his wearing a tie. In years' past, whenever he dressed in a coat and tie, he was greeted with a lot of "what's wrong?" and "is everything okay?". Those who have known him for a long time know that if he was "dressed up", it's generally not a good day. Now, he assures anyone who is wondering with "I promise everything is okay" and while

smiling, "this is just the way things are now." He has since grown to love his new wardrobe and with that wardrobe comes more responsibility and expectation. To do his job well, he has to balance his new responsibilities while maintaining a current understanding of faculty, research, and pedagogical developments. His eclecticism in these areas and his drive to understand the larger picture and workings of the university beyond any single department may be the very thing that makes him suited for his new role. He believes his connection to both faculty and administration will further assist the Graduate School in achieving its goals. He is on a steep learning curve for administration needs and processes, while simultaneously learning how to maintain – albeit at a necessarily reduced level – his research and teaching efforts. He is finishing two grants, and has had two more awarded for which he is re-organizing to include an additional faculty collaborator to assist with workload. He was also recently awarded another book contract.

Dr. Porter will be heavily involved in creating and expanding graduate programs offered at ODU. He will also work with the Graduate Student Organization to cement the graduate presence at ODU. This presence is instrumental in giving graduate students the support they need. He is driven to create and reform policies to allow for better accommodation of graduate students both in and out of the classroom. Dr. Porter has avidly expressed a love and desire to "build things" in his career. As he did for his research program, for the new doctoral concentration in psychology, and for numerous initiatives for the university at large, he is looking forward to helping the Graduate School build his presence and support for graduate student success. To learn more about the Graduate School, please read "The Graduate School" by Robert Wojtowicz on page one. Feel free to contact Dr. Bryan Porter via email at [bporter@odu.edu](mailto:bporter@odu.edu).

## SIGN UP TODAY!

ODU has partnered with the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD). NCFDD is considered to be a leader across the nation for providing training, mentoring, and online supportive communities for faculty, graduate students, and post-docs. Sign up today and receive weekly Monday Motivators, monthly curriculum webinars, guest expert webinars, skill building courses, a reliable support network of highly trained mentors, accountability buddy matches, and moderated writing challenges. NCFDD provides an efficient, on-demand, support structure for sustained professional development. Graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of this free opportunity.

For more information or to sign up go to <http://www.facultydiversity.org/>.

# GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION BY BRIAN PITMAN

Hello everyone. My name is Brian Pitman and I am the Acting President of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) here at Old Dominion University. I wanted to introduce you all to GSO and its purpose. We intend to serve graduate students on and off campus. First, we have social events every month, which in the past have included visits to Cogan's on Colley. In the future, we would love to do a river cruise and visits to Busch Gardens with invites out to all Graduate students. These are fun events that allow us to unwind after long weeks/stretches in the semester. It is a great time to get together, meet new people, and talk to other graduate students about their interests and research. Next, we would like to host more professional development events for graduate students here at ODU. We would love to do events such as CV/Resume writing, grant writing, Endnote or other software trainings, Electronic Dissertation submission, and others.

However, we need your help in this regard, as we need participation in the activities that we schedule, so that GSO can continue to maintain and benefit graduate students well into the future. We also need ideas from

you as to what kinds of professional development events best fit your needs. These would be greatly appreciated and would allow us to expand and make sure we reach the needs of all graduate students. Lastly, like all other groups on campus, we are required to take part in philanthropy and community service. The plan for this year is to take part in Project Homeless Connect in January and to submit items for first aid kits to the Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps. However, we are also open to more ideas about what to do for these events. Overall, GSO hopes to provide graduate students the opportunity to network and expand their professional development opportunities. We hope that you will join us at as many of the following events as possible. Please contact any of the people below for more information.

Brian Pitman: [bpitman@odu.edu](mailto:bpitman@odu.edu)

Stephen Young: [styoung@odu.edu](mailto:styoung@odu.edu)

Lora Hadzhidimova: [lhadz001@odu.edu](mailto:lhadz001@odu.edu)

Eric White: [emwhite@odu.edu](mailto:emwhite@odu.edu)

Lucas Potter: [lpott005@odu.edu](mailto:lpott005@odu.edu)

## MEET DR. AUGUSTINE O. AGHO: PROVOST



Dr. Austin Agho, the new Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, joined the monarch nation this past June and with him comes a wealth of knowledge and experience. About 35 years ago, the Nigerian native took a huge leap to Anchorage, Alaska. His journey continued across the map. He earned his B.S. in management science from Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage, Alaska, his M.H.A. in health administration from Governors State University in University Park, Illinois,

and his Ph.D. in hospital and health administration from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. He held academic positions in Florida and Iowa before his first deanship at the University of Michigan-Flint's School of Health Professions and Studies from 2005-2008. He then served at Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis as the dean of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences from 2008-2016.

At Indiana University, he established the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, the Master of Science in Health Sciences, and the Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree programs. He also created two graduate certificate programs, grew the occupational therapy and physical therapy programs to nationally ranked programs, doubled total enrollment, and nearly tripled minority enrollment. Dr. Agho also is credited with receiving five research grants of \$1 million or more. Now he comes to Old Dominion with a mission. His biggest priorities are to increase faculty research and scholarship, increase the number of graduate professional programs, and increase professional development opportunities such as internships, job placement, and study abroad programs. Dr. Agho hopes his background and experiences will encourage students to explore the many possibilities the world has to offer.



# OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

**I D E A F U S I O N**

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

ODU graduate student Eric White compiled and edited this newsletter with help from Dr. Robert Wojtowicz, Dr. Bryan Porter, and Missy Barber in the Graduate School.

You can contact Eric at:  
[emwhite@odu.edu](mailto:emwhite@odu.edu).