

## A Message from the Provost



Dr. Carol Simpson

Over the next year, Associate Vice President Brenda Neumon Lewis and I intend to focus more attention on our graduate students, especially on the recognition that they bring to the University through their research and scholarly achievements. Graduate education is increasingly being recognized in the Commonwealth, as well as nationally and internationally, as a vital component of our nation's future success. Graduate study at Old Dominion University is no exception. Regardless of the area of study, graduate education is so much more than learning from textbooks and passing exams. It involves the coalescence of ideas and information, new and established, into a whole new way of thinking about the discipline. To prepare themselves to help solve the important problems of today and tomorrow, graduate students learn to identify areas of promising new research. They learn to apply advanced and often cutting-edge techniques and to seek out information from others who have worked on similar problems in the past. Some students will even design new experiments and gather original data to help solve critical problems. The lucky few will discover something entirely new or reach conclusions that lead to new directions in the discipline. Most importantly, graduate students learn to think creatively and to articulate their findings and ideas in ways that society as a whole can understand. Graduate study is certainly demanding, but it can be an immensely rewarding experience and its benefit to the nation and to the community at large cannot be over emphasized.

Our graduate students' accomplishments deserve encouragement and celebration. Although each graduate program takes pride in the achievement of its own students, and rightly so, I would like Old Dominion University as a whole to be more aware of the really excellent work that our graduate students accomplish. For this reason, I have inaugurated an annual day on which we will honor and celebrate the achievements of our graduate students: Graduate Research Achievement Day (GRAD), to be held this year on April 6 in the Webb Center. This will be an opportunity for many of our graduate students to present posters and share the results of their work with other students, with faculty from other disciplines, and with all members of the ODU community. I hope to see you there, and at other annual GRAD days in the future, to support and congratulate our graduate student presenters.

## ODU Counseling Graduate Program

The ODU Counseling Graduate Program offers a Ph.D. in Education with a concentration in Counseling, a Master's degree (M.S. Ed.), and an Education Specialization (Ed.S.) in Counseling. While the master's program has been around for the last twenty-five years, the doctoral program began in spring 2007.

These programs have received a lot of recognition over the years, especially since the creation of the doctoral program. In 2009, the ODU Counseling Program re-

ceived the Robert Frank Outstanding Counselor Education Program Award, awarded by the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES). Recently ODU's Counseling Program received a 2010 NBCC Professional Identity Award. The National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) gives this award to programs that meet and exceed the professional standards of the counseling profession.

One important factor in the success of the counseling pro-

grams is its national honors society, Chi Sigma Iota (CSI). ODU's chapter, Omega Delta, is one of 278 chapters of CSI. Their main goals are to promote professional development of members and to promote counseling in the community. CSI is a very active organization on campus, and members participate in events such as fundraising, community service and mentoring. They also host a graduation ceremony every semester to honor Counseling Graduate Program graduates.



Dr. Ted Remley,  
Graduate Program  
Director of the  
Counseling Graduate  
Program

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### Did you know?

- Pre-registration for summer and fall 2011 classes starts April 11, 2011
- A group of graduate students from Prof. Gwen Lee-Thomas's Higher Education Capstone class has conducted research on the subject "Faculty Perspectives on Internationalizing ODU."

## International Student and Scholar Services

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at Old Dominion University offers non-academic advising for international students and scholars. The office offers workshops for students that often involve issues with student visas, internships, and employment. They also help international students interpret and understand university policies, how immigration services works, and other aspects of living abroad.

Master's student and ISSS Graduate Assistant Degi Sukhbaatar said, "ISSS really helped me with my check-in process and orientation." She also commented that ISSS can help students in ways they may not realize, including filling out employment forms and providing answers to questions such as visa status while in the United States.



*ISSS Graduate Assistant Delgerjargal (Degi) Sukhbaatar pointing to her home country Mongolia*

Along with the Department of Human Resources, ISSS offers a Global Certificate Program (GCP) for faculty and staff (and Graduate Assistants). To earn the certificate, faculty and staff members must attend six out of the twelve workshops offered within a year. More information about upcoming GCP sessions can be found on page 3.

ISSS staff members are also available to speak to faculty individually or at staff meetings. Sara Eser, Associate Director of ISSS said, "I am ready, willing and able to come speak to departments about international student challenges." She said they want Graduate Program Directors and other faculty to be informed about their students' needs. ISSS can offer insight into challenges students face, help improve intercultural communication, and inform faculty about immigration requirements.

This June ISSS will be moving to Dragas Hall where it will be under the same roof as the English Language Center, Office of Study Abroad, and International Admissions. To learn more about ISSS visit their website at [odu.edu/issv](http://odu.edu/issv).

## Spotlight on Graduate Education in the Darden College of Education



**Dr. Charlene Fleener** is the Graduate Program Director (GPD) of five programs in the College of Education in addition to her position as Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning. Dr. Fleener is a former teacher but found that becoming a GPD at ODU has given her greater opportunities. She feels that advising and interacting with her students, who are or will become teachers, has given her the opportunity to affect and improve many more children's lives. She says her students have a real passion for the children they teach and are persistent in their research and work to help the students in their classrooms. Dr. Fleener's students are tasked with assessing and helping children's true needs.

**Anne Michalek** is a doctoral student in the Special Education program at ODU. She received her Master's in Speech Language Pathology in 1999 and held the position of adjunct faculty member at ODU from 2006-2008. Michalek commented she has been able to tailor her degree to her research interests which include cognition, speech and language, and post-secondary education. As a Ph.D. student, Michalek has participated in several national and local conferences and has made seven presentations, including one at an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention. This mother of three has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her educational career and is currently working on her dissertation.



*Miki Yoshimura with school children in a town outside of Islamabad, Pakistan*

**Dr. Miki Yoshimura** graduated from ODU in 2010 with a Ph.D. in Higher Education. After graduating, Dr. Yoshimura worked as an interpreter in New York for the UN General Assembly and interpreted for the former Prime Minister of Japan, the former Prime Minister of Korea, and the Secretary General of the UN. Dr. Yoshimura is currently living in Islamabad, Pakistan and working as a Senior Project Associate for a Gender Justice and Protection Project for the UNDP Pakistan. Presently her forty ongoing projects deal with combating violence against women. Dr. Yoshimura said her ODU graduate education and experience helped her to attain her dream job. She says, "I have always felt that those of us who are lucky enough to have graduate degrees have social responsibilities—to give back to others what you have gained."

## ODU Distance Learning: Education, Technology, Innovation

Old Dominion University's Distance Learning has been serving students for more than twenty years. The program's history with Teletechnet has put ODU at the forefront of Distance Learning innovation. This technology-based mode of education is becoming increasingly popular across the country, and the Commonwealth of Virginia is pushing for more online programs because of the need to educate more citizens.

As Andrew Casiello, Associate Vice President of Distance Learning states, "It's hard to stop working. People need the income, but they also need the education to move up." Distance Learning gives adult learners the flexibility to work and have a fam-

ily life, all while getting the education they need. Distance Learning is also great for students who are coming out of high school and are technology savvy. Distance Learning can combine online discussion boards, real-time lectures, and interactive videos that students are able to play multiple times.

Distance Learning options have become quite prevalent at Old Dominion, and one-fifth of all ODU students attend classes at locations other than the main campus. ODU offers Distance Learning at higher education centers, community colleges, and military sites. Students can expect to see Distance Learning continue to grow dramatically over the next few years. Currently, ODU Distance Learning

delivers fifty-seven degree programs, including twenty-one master's degrees and five doctoral degrees.

Casiello also commented, "There has been a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for online course development." ODU Distance Learning is currently part of an effort to create ten more online programs. Casiello says that ODU has a large team of doctoral-level individuals who work with the faculty to design these online programs. They create high-quality distance education programs by focusing not only on technology but also on pedagogical strategies and techniques.

Look for more ODU Distance Learning marketing and a new website this spring and summer ([dl.odu.edu](http://dl.odu.edu)).

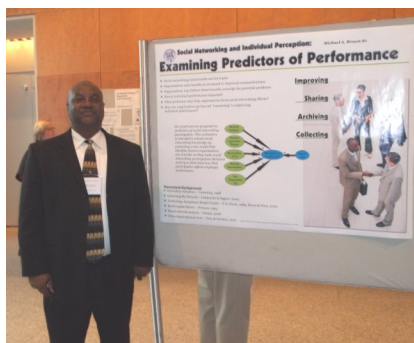


Visit the Distance Learning Center in the Albert Brooks Gornto Jr. Teletechnet Center



Graduate students Shahram Mohrehkesh, Matt Loesch, Beyza Unal, Nick Reese and Hany Salahldeen at the GSO 2nd Annual Spring Meet and Mingle on January 28 at 37th and Zen

## Graduate Activities



Michael Brown, Ph.D. student in Public Administration and Urban Policy, at the Sixth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum



Hajar Maazia, Ph.D. student and Vice President of the Muslim Student Association, speaking at a Global Certificate Program, Understanding Culture: Women in Islam, on February 22

Upcoming GCP sessions:

- Wednesday, **April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Communicating Effectively with International Students, 9 -11 am, Chesapeake Room, Webb Center
- Wednesday, **April 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Cultural Spotlight: Turkey, 9 -11 am, Chesapeake Room, Webb Center



The eight ODU presenters at the Sixth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, VA on February 3

# Graduate Funding

Check out the ODU graduate catalog and talk with your GPD about funding. The following is a list of helpful websites and current opportunities:



- Northwestern University ([giving.northwestern.edu/foundations/funding](http://giving.northwestern.edu/foundations/funding))  
Current opportunity: The John Templeton Foundation - Exceptional Cognitive Talent and Genius, due April 15, 2011
- Grants.gov ([grants.gov/applicants/find\\_grant\\_opportunities.jsp](http://grants.gov/applicants/find_grant_opportunities.jsp))  
Current opportunity: Wildlife Without Borders - Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund, due May 1, 2011
- National Science Foundation ([nsf.gov/funding](http://nsf.gov/funding))  
Current opportunity: Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT), due May 2, 2011
- GrantsNet ([sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding))  
Current opportunity: The Effect of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination/Bias on Health Care Delivery, due June 5, 2011
- Community of Science (COS) ([fundingopps.cos.com](http://fundingopps.cos.com))  
Current opportunity: Digging Into Data Challenge, due June 16, 2011
- University of Missouri-St Louis ([umsl.edu/services/ora/sponsored-projects/priv-foundations.html](http://umsl.edu/services/ora/sponsored-projects/priv-foundations.html))  
Current opportunity: American Diabetes Association - *sanofi-aventis* U.S. Research Award in Health Services Research for Clinical Care Delivery in Diabetes, due July 15, 2011

# Graduate Events

- Graduate Research Achievement Day  
When: April 6, 2011 / Where: Old Dominion University / Who: Office of Graduate Studies and Graduate Student Organization
- 2011 AAG Annual Meeting  
When: April 12-16, 2011 / Where: Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Washington / Who: Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- Language and Literacy Education Graduate Conference  
When: May 14, 2011 / Where: Greater Vancouver area, British Columbia / Who: University of British Columbia / Theme: "Interrogating Social Justice in Language and Literacy Education"
- 1st Annual Graduate Conference in Science and Technology  
When: May 20-22, 2011 / Where: York University, Toronto, Canada / Who: The Program in Science and Technology Studies at York University / Theme: "Apparatuses; Matter; Materialities."
- 2011 Mid-Atlantic Addiction Research and Training Institute (MARTI) Summer School Conference  
When: July 11-15, 2011 / Where: Indiana, PA / Who: Indiana University of Pennsylvania / Deadline: Apply before July 5
- 10th Asia Pacific Forum  
When: July 14-17, 2011 / Where: Singapore / Who: University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Singapore / Theme: "Graduate Student's Research in Tourism"

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Graduate News is online!  
[odu.edu/ao/gradstudies](http://odu.edu/ao/gradstudies)

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