

## Graduate News is Back!



Associate Vice President  
for Graduate Studies Dr.  
Brenda Neumon Lewis

After several years of not having a newsletter, the Office of Graduate Studies will resume publishing regular issues of "Graduate News."

We are very excited about this new development. We hope that the newsletter will be a useful tool to bring attention to the many facets of graduate education on this campus and increase a sense of community among graduate students and faculty. In this issue you will read about a new master's program in Lifespan and Digital Communications that is on the cutting of that field of study. This month's spotlight is on individuals in the Col-

lege of Arts and Letters, a graduate program director, a current student and an alum. You will also hear about the eight students who will represent ODU at the VCGS Graduate Research Forum. There are a number of suggestions for gaining funding and a list of upcoming graduate events. The Graduate Student Organization update outlines the goals and initiatives it has and suggests the ways that

students may get involved.

Future editions will review the research in which ODU students or faculty are involved, cover highlights of degree programs in the colleges, review national trends or best practices in graduate education, and provide an opportunity for students or faculty to express their thoughts on graduate issues. Also, we hope that you will suggest ideas for future issues. Enjoy "Graduate News."

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### Reminders for Graduate Students!

- All graduate students who enrolled fall 2010 or later must complete the CITI RCR Training modules. You must complete the training by your thirteenth month of enrollment at ODU. Contact Dr. Adam Rubenstein for additional information [arubenst@odu.edu](mailto:arubenst@odu.edu) or (757) 683-3686.
- All graduate students must be enrolled for the semester they intend to graduate. Also, all doctoral students must be enrolled continuously for at least one credit following their admission to candidacy.

## Eight Students Chosen to Present Research

This year the Virginia Council of Graduate Schools (VCGS) will host the Sixth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, VA on February 3. Invited guests include legislators, educators, and business leaders throughout the state. The goal of the forum is to show Virginia decision-makers the value of graduate education. The hope is that they will recall this value when making decisions about finding. The forum is also a great networking opportunity for graduate students. Previous participants have had the opportunity to visit other institutions and conferences to share their research.



Four of the eight ODU presenters:  
Brandon Rowan, Beth McHose,  
Michael Brown and Rifat Aras

The forum will have about 80 presenters from 13 Virginia universities. This year 8 students from Old Dominion University have been selected from a pool of 17 applicants. Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies, Dr. Brenda Neumon Lewis, said, "The proposals received this year were excep-

tional. The selection was very competitive and the decision was extremely difficult." All 6 colleges from ODU will be represented at the forum by the following participants: Rifat Aras, Melodee Baines, Elaine Blount, Michael Brown, Jewel Goodman, Beth McHose, Brandon Rowan, and Tabetha Sundin.

The forum will also include a series of 10 short videos that highlight the value of graduate student research. Doctoral student Antonia Silva of the Physical Therapy program was chosen to represent Old Dominion University in the video series. (A picture of Silva can be seen on page 3.)

## New A&L Program: MA in Lifespan & Digital Communication

Look out ODU! There is a new graduate program in town. The Master of Arts in Lifespan and Digital Communication program is a new and unique degree program which begins fall 2011. This will be the first degree in the United States that combines human communication and digital media in a lifespan format. The program is primarily tailored to all qualified holders of a bachelor's degree in Communication, but all candidates with a B.A. or B.S. in a related discipline will be considered.

Communication and Theatre Arts Department Chair, Dr. Gary Edgerton and Graduate Program Director, Dr. Tom Socha have been working towards this degree

for about six years. They saw the need for such a program because of the serious lack of graduate level communication degrees in Virginia. After surveying many juniors, seniors, and alumni, the interest in such a degree became very apparent.

This program will provide for course and research sharing with many other ODU programs. Dr. Socha stressed that this program can share expertise about digital communication and gaming with the Education department, knowledge about paper practices going digital with the Health Sciences department, and how humans and mechanicals interface with the Engineering department.

Dr. Edgerton says this will be a research-oriented degree. He hopes that students are able to learn about lifespan and digital communication, but also he hopes they will come up with new ideas. This area of study will face the unique challenge that the pace of change is very rapid. These masters' students will do a lot of research about current theories as well as help come up with new theories.

For more information about the MA in Lifespan and Digital Communication, contact Dr. Tom Socha at [tsocha@odu.edu](mailto:tsocha@odu.edu). Also look for a new website, brochures, information sessions, and alumni center events coming this spring.



Graduate Program Director Dr. Tom Socha and Communication and Theatre Arts Department Chair Dr. Gary Edgerton

## Spotlight on Graduate Education in Arts and Letters



**Dr. Mona Danner** is the Graduate Program Director for the Criminology and Criminal Justice program. The program started in fall 2007, and its first graduates are expected this August. Dr. Danner says the program is going strong. Most of their students have joined national societies, have been published, and have gone to conferences. They have an exceptional faculty, and the students are great writers and thinkers, hard workers, and are hungry to learn. Dr. Danner says the best part of her program is the students. "Their presence has ignited passion and lit a new fire of interest in all of us," says Dr. Danner.



**Anna Fomina** is a current international graduate student in the Applied Linguistics program. She is a Fulbright student from Moscow, Russia and has a degree in Linguistics and Intercultural Communications. She was one of 45 Russian students selected from about 700 applicants for the Fulbright program. Fomina says she likes ODU because, "the professors are friendly, I've made some great friends, and the campus and infrastructure are wonderful." Fomina is not sure what she will do after graduating in May 2012, but she will most likely have to return to Russia for 2 years.



**Dr. Elizabeth Vincelette** is an Old Dominion University alumna. She was the first graduate of the Ph.D. in English program in August 2010. She credits being the first graduate to the fact that she always took a full load of classes and already had a vague idea of what she wanted to study before she started her program. Dr. Vincelette's advice to graduate students, "Chase an idea around even if it seems weird. It's the weird thinking that brings me the best and potentially most original ideas." Also she stressed the importance of time management and having a writing space or "zone" so you can train your brain when it is time to work. Dr. Vincelette now teaches undergraduate composition and American literature classes at ODU.

*"Chase an idea around even if it seems weird."*

## The “New” GSO



The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) was officially founded in April 2007. The purpose of the organization was to create a unifying force in the ODU graduate community, establish a social and professional network, and create a forum to voice graduate concerns to the university. It is a well known fact that graduate students are very busy. Consequently, it has been a challenge for the organization to maintain its momentum. Masters students are usually only at the university for two years, and doctoral students

are under extreme pressure. These conditions have been hard on the GSO over the past three years.

GSO's current Health Liaison Pete Sasso shares, "I was a part of the GSO in the fall of 2008 and in 2009; then it seemed to disappear. Now it's back again, and it's here to stay." The GSO is in the



*GSO members Matt Loesch (President), Subbash Kadiam, Kelvin Phan, Kyonna Withers (Vice President), and Tamekia Bell (Director of Student Development) at the Spring 2011 ODU New Graduate Student Orientation*

process of refocusing while making major changes.

Current president Matt Loesch (Doctoral student in the Public Administration and Urban Policy program) has big plans for revamping and revitalizing the GSO. His dream is to recharter the GSO as the GSG – Graduate Student Government. This would mean the GSO would have a bigger budget, more recognition, and overall more authority in graduate student affairs. Loesch hopes to see the GSO become an independent government and therefore an umbrella organization for all the other graduate student organizations. As Loesch puts it, "Our mission is to help their missions."

The GSO is currently made up of about 200 members and 21 officers. The organization is very decentralized with 39 officer positions, and many of their meetings are electronic. "It's not hard to be a part of GSO," says Loesch. He knows the obstacles graduate education creates for graduate student organizations, so he tries to make the GSO a fun, easy to run, easy to be a part of, and productive organization.

To learn more about GSO contact Matt Loesch at [mloesch@odu.edu](mailto:mloesch@odu.edu) or visit the GSO website [orgs.odu.edu/gso/](http://orgs.odu.edu/gso/)



Doctoral candidate Antonia Silva with film director John Woody filming a short video about Silva's research to be shown at this year's VCGS Graduate Student Research Forum

## Graduate Activities



President Broderick speaking with Courtney Fields (Masters in Education graduate), her mother Felita Fields, and brother Sean Fields at the December Masters and Doctoral Graduate Reception hosted by the ODU Alumni Association. Congratulations to all December graduates!



Upcoming Preparing Future Faculty events:

- Grant Writing Workshop  
February 4, Noon-2:00 PM  
Hampton/NN Room, Webb Center
- Publish, Don't Perish!  
April 1, Noon-2:00PM  
BAL Room 9024

For more information on PFF contact Dr. Elaine Justice at [ejustice@odu.edu](mailto:ejustice@odu.edu)



Traci Daniels (Legal Services Advisor) talking to graduate teaching assistants about threat assessment at the Spring 2011 GTAI Institute

# Graduate Funding



There are many graduate education and research funding opportunities available. However, it is not always easy to find them! Check out the ODU graduate catalog and talk with your GPD about funding. The following is a list of helpful websites and current opportunities found on each.

- GrantsNet ([sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding))  
Current opportunity: Sustainable Chesapeake: A Collaborative Approach to Urban Stormwater Management, due January 31, 2011
- Northwestern University ([giving.northwestern.edu/foundations/funding](http://giving.northwestern.edu/foundations/funding))  
Current opportunity: The Greenwall Foundation BIOETHICS, due February 1, 2011
- Community of Science (COS) ([fundingopps.cos.com](http://fundingopps.cos.com))  
Current opportunity: ASPH/CDC Public Health Internship Program, due February 24, 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: Fulbright-mtvU Awards, due March 1, 2011
- National Science Foundation ([nsf.gov/funding](http://nsf.gov/funding))  
Current opportunity: Research to Aid Persons with Disabilities (RAPD), due March 3, 2011

# Graduate Events

- Sixth Annual Graduate Student Research Forum  
When: February 3, 2011 / Where: Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA / Who: The Virginia Council of Graduate Schools
- Ninth Annual Graduate Research Conference  
When: February 25, 2011 / Where: Old Dominion University / Who: The Graduate Society for International Studies and the Center for Regional and Global Studies, in collaboration with the Graduate Program in International Studies
- 23rd Annual National Black Graduate Student Conference 2011  
When: March 9-13, 2011 / Where: Columbia, SC / Who: National Black Graduate Student Association / Theme: "Transforming Roads Ahead" / Proposal submission: February 1, 2011 (must be NBGSA member)
- AERA Annual Meeting  
When: April 8-12, 2011 / Where: New Orleans, LA / Who: American Educational Research Association (AERA) / Theme: "Inciting the Social Imagination: Education Research for the Public Good"
- 1st Annual Intercultural Communication Graduate Research Expo  
When: April 9, 2011 / Where: University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD / Who: UMBC Interculturalists Graduate Student Organization and the Dept of Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication / Abstracts due: February 4, 2011
- 5th Annual Graduate Student Probability Conference (GSPC)  
When: April 29-May 1, 2011 / Where: Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA / Who: The Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute, the National Science Foundation and School of Mathematics / Registration deadline: March 29, 2011

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

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