

# monarch

Drew Ungvarsky | Monarch romance | Tick research | New art museum



A new era in  
**DINING**

# Full Frame





### **Eat and greet**

The exterior of the new Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons at sunrise is as impressive as the dishes served within. At the dedication ceremony in September, President Broderick challenged students to do more than try new foods: “Help me keep my promise – that nobody on this campus feels alone or marginalized. If you see someone dining alone, sit with them or – better yet – ask them to join your group.”

PHOTOS: BUILDING, SHARA WEBER;  
PORTRAIT, DAVID UHRIN

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### ON THE COVER

Students eating well in the newly opened Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons. See and read more about the dining hall on Pages 20-21. Warning: You'll get hungry. *Photo by Roberto Westbrook.*

### IN THE SPRING ISSUE: BEHIND THE CAMERA WITH ESPN ANCHOR JAY HARRIS '87.



# Letter from the President

Welcome to the fall issue of Monarch magazine. On the cover and inside the magazine, you'll see our new dining hall. Students can choose from eight options of cuisine, from tapas to Asian, with such amenities as a churrasco grill (for Brazilian-style beef) and a noodle bar. As I said in my State of the University address in August, "Our students will be eating better than we ever did." And members of the community can eat there, too, for a reasonable price. I invite you to try it out.



As usual, the magazine features several alumni who have risen to distinction. Drew Ungvarsky '02 has created an award-winning digital marketing agency and emerged as a driving force in the effort to attract millennials to downtown Norfolk.

Other alumni profiled here include Dr. DeVon Taylor '12, who recently began his residency at Duke University after graduating from Harvard Medical School; Ali Javey '01, a scientist at Berkeley developing a sweat sensor; Deborah Archer '06, who aims to visit every national park next year, and Norfolk Mayor Kenny Alexander '90.

On the lighter side, a handful of Monarch couples share their stories of how they met on campus and fell in love. A spoiler: Like so much in life, some of these romances took a long time to blossom.

The magazine also provides a taste of our wide-ranging research, from ticks to Shakespeare. I hope you are impressed, as I was, by the considerable involvement of students in many of these projects. That's not a given at most universities, but it characterizes Old Dominion's spirit of collaboration.

Finally, you'll meet four employees who make a huge difference behind the scenes. One of them, Dwight Williford, a facilities maintenance worker, said that when he sees a confused-looking student, "the first thing I say is, 'You look lost. How can I help?'"

That's the Monarch way.

*John R. Broderick, President*  
Old Dominion University

# monarch

Old Dominion University magazine

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Vol. 6 No. 2, Fall 2016  
Published by the Office of  
Strategic Communication and Marketing  
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## Letter from the Editor

Summer already seems far away, but I'm still smiling from your overwhelmingly enthusiastic response to the summer issue. Thanks for your generous emails, letters and calls praising the articles, the 85th anniversary insert and our new look.

The article that drew by far the largest reaction was my feature on "Dr. Bill" Whitehurst, who joined the Norfolk Division in 1950, left for a spell to serve in Congress and continues teaching at Old Dominion. The profile generated a stream of fond memories, some of which appear in our Comments and Letters section (Page 5).



My wife, Mary Ann, and I had dinner with Dr. Bill on the first day of the school year. He was revved up about the new semester. And he provided a correction: In the article, he estimated having taught 9,500 students. He recalculated that figure and now thinks it's about 12,000. Put them all together, and they'd fill more than half of Foreman Field.

I also want to thank you for taking the time to fill out the e-readership survey. The results there, too, were gratifying. In short, many of you read the magazine closely and are hungry for more Monarch news. Nearly one-third of the alums who responded said they read the

magazine cover to cover. An additional 47 percent said they closely read at least half of every issue. And 44 percent of respondents would like us to double our output from two to four issues a year.

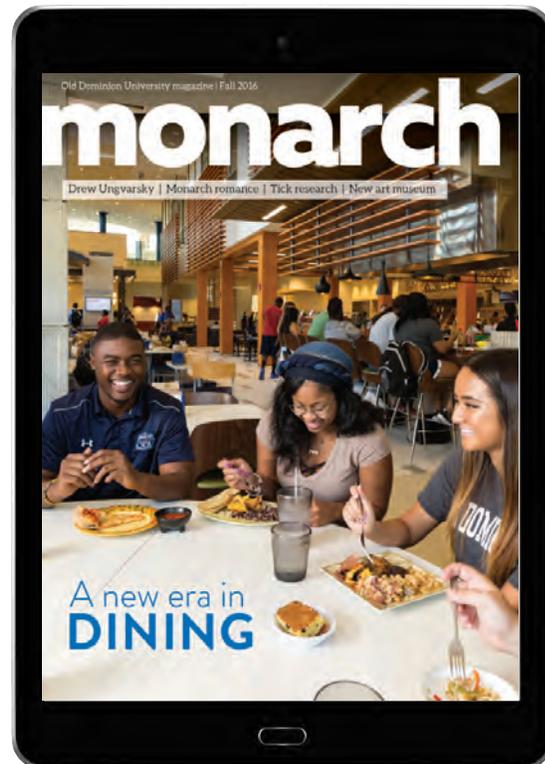
We hear you. Starting next year, we plan to add two online newsletters. We'll call them Mini-Monarchs. They'll have the two types of features you said most interest you: alumni profiles and updates on campus news. In addition, they'll include photos and videos of exciting developments and personalities at Old Dominion.

Look for the first Mini-Monarch next February and the second in early fall. We'll continue sending you the print magazines in spring and winter. Let us know what you think.

And keep the feedback coming. Contact me with your news and ideas at [pwalzer@odu.edu](mailto:pwalzer@odu.edu) or 757-683-3692.

Hope you enjoy this issue and it brings back even more great Monarch memories.

*Philip Walzer*  
*Monarch Magazine and University Editor*



### What do you think?

*Monarch magazine welcomes your letters, tweets, calls and comments. You may contact us via email, [pwalzer@odu.edu](mailto:pwalzer@odu.edu); fax, 757-683-5513; phone, 757-683-3692; or by regular mail, Editor, Monarch magazine, 1024 Koch Hall, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529.*

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Check out our latest tweets at [twitter.com/odunow](http://twitter.com/odunow) and follow us @ODUnow

## A LIFE-CHANGING PROF

I received the latest Monarch magazine and I thought back to how my entire life was changed by one teacher and an elective course at ODU. The teacher was June Cooper, and her class was music recording. I still have the book she custom-made for the class with many articles and research from so many different areas.



The class was my first step into recording and had nothing to do with my major – business management. But those humble beginnings in a

small trailer with a little recording space on the edge of the campus have taken me to multiple Grammys, over 100 gold and platinum records and ownership of one of the most respected studios in the country.

I would really like to let that professor – June Cooper – know how that small class that she put together with minimal equipment launched a music career that has resulted in so many top records.

**Mike Wilson '89**  
Patchwerk Studios  
Atlanta, Ga.

## IN PRAISE OF DR. BILL

"Bill Whitehurst: Still Strong at 91" sparked my own fond memories of those "Division" days. Everyone, students and teachers alike, knew everyone. This allowed for a special kind of college experience, and many lasting friendships developed there. Influencing us all at that time was Bill Whitehurst, a marvelous teacher, friend and mentor to many. Those were the '50s, and I, as well as others, needed some real guidance, not only about college matters, but life as well. Dr. Whitehurst was there to offer his wise assistance in making those decisions. He made a real difference. Now, after all these years, he is still in the classroom. Amazing!



**Bob Pierce '61**  
Joppa, Md.

Excellent article on Dr. Bill. He continues to rank up there as one of the best professors I have ever had. He was my history professor in the fall of 1951.

I would have liked to have remained and taken more classes with Dr. Bill, but I took an appointment to the Naval Academy, thus I missed out on being regaled and educated in history, in a unique didactic style only he could purvey. In subsequent years I took several other degrees, but none of the professors could stand up to Dr. Bill.

**Chris Stefanou**  
Norfolk, Va.

I enjoyed reading about Dr. Whitehurst, who gave of his time so generously. I remember once when our fraternity (Tiga) was holding a Christmas event for children, Dr. Whitehurst showed up and spent time with us and the kids. We had several taps for adult beverages in the wall. These were well decorated to hide them from the kids and parents. Didn't hide them from Dr. Whitehurst; he asked me if they were for orange juice!

Early in my time at ODU, my parents and I re-

ceived a letter from Dr. Whitehurst that started something like: "Mr. Wilkinson, if your grades don't improve this semester..." I learned and did finally graduate. I will be the first to admit that my grades were not so good, but I did have a great time!

**Willard "Tink" Wilkinson '67**  
Mobile, Ala.

Let me congratulate you on the new Monarch. I enjoyed reading it and appreciated the new look and feel.

I also especially enjoyed the article on Professor G. William Whitehurst. I took his American history course in 1965-66. He was one of the best faculty instructors I ever had.

And I admired his service in the U.S. Congress. My family were constituents of his and always thought of him as a traditional Ripon Society Republican. Would that there were more like him today.

**Anthony R. Williams '67**  
Carlisle, Pa.

## NIAGARA FALLS SELFIE

Fellow Monarchs **Sandra Adams '88 (M.S. '02)** (left) and **Colette M. Shaw '89** planned a reunion at a higher education conference in western New York this past summer. Shaw, who lives in Rochester, N.Y., happened to receive the Summer 2016 issue of Monarch and took it along the day she picked up Adams for a sightseeing visit to Niagara Falls. It made a great photo-opp selfie for the magazine, which is distributed to all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and more than 65 other countries.



## CORRECTION

The summer issue contained errors in its description of the scholarship named for Ronald Horne '69, the first African-American to receive a bachelor's degree at Old Dominion. The scholarship is open to all students and covers a variety of expenses.

# HOW DREW GREW

*Among the fringe benefits Ungvarsky provides to his employees: free bikes to ride during a break from work.*

*By Rich Radford Photography by Roberto Westbrook*

Drew Ungvarsky was a 20-something whiz kid making a name for himself creating something very new: interactive online marketing. Industry leaders considered Ungvarsky a wow-factor guy, capable of bringing bang to their online branding campaigns. His dilemma: Stay in Norfolk or move to the big city?

“If I had moved to New York or San Francisco, I wouldn’t have been able to affect my surroundings the way I can here,” said Ungvarsky, who received a computer science degree from ODU in 2002.

“They say the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. I say the grass is greener where you water it.”

**SO HE STAYED.**



A dozen years later, the 35-year-old waters his grass in a century-old building in downtown Norfolk that once was a bakery and confectionery store. His cutting-edge digital agency, Grow, has attracted more than three dozen of the hippest techno geeks imaginable from four continents. They ride bikes to work, dress like they're headed to an Arctic Monkeys concert and hatch some of the world's most creative websites.

**When engaging a new client,** Ungvarsky takes pride in this simple introduction: You might not know us, but you definitely know our work.

Grow's list of customers reads like a Fortune 500 rundown:

Nike, FedEx, HBO, Doritos, Volvo, Burberry, Avis, Starbucks, Volkswagen, Alka-Seltzer, Sprint, YouTube, BF-Goodrich, Gillette, Toyota.

And Coca-Cola.

In 1971, Coke launched its "Perfect Harmony" ad campaign, with the hook, "I'd like to buy the world a Coke," sung by a kaleidoscopic collection of humanity standing on a hilltop. Every baby boomer remembers it.

Forty years later, Ungvarsky, who wasn't alive when the campaign hatched, gave it new life, creating a website enabling the user to send someone a Coke from a smartphone: "Send a free Coca-Cola

across the world and share a little happiness with someone you've never met."

By the way, the main client wasn't Coke. It was another heavy hitter: Google.

Before Ungvarsky knew it, the Coke project landed him in Cannes – yes, *that* Cannes – where he picked up the Mobile Lions Grand Prix Award given by the festival judges.

That and subsequent awards haven't changed his style.

"Most pitchmen are loud and proud of themselves," Ungvarsky said. He prefers a laid-back, subtle beach look, usually dressing in T-shirt, jeans and sneakers.

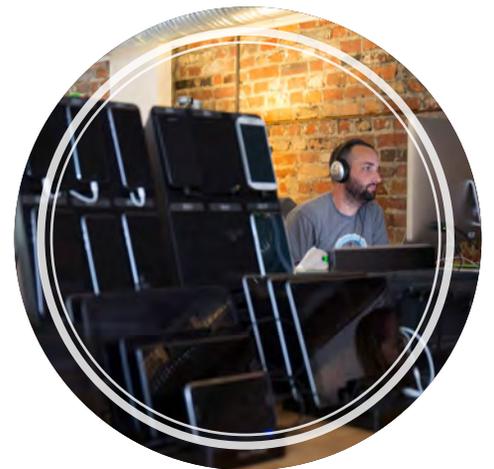
A CEO to whom he recently pitched a product advised: "Drew, you need a look." He shrugged it off.

"Apparently, I look a little too normal," said Ungvarsky, who grew up in Virginia Beach, where he attended Kellam High School.

Looks aside, Louis Henry, dean emeritus of ODU's Honors College, had no doubt Ungvarsky would reach such heights in short order.

"I heard there was a freshman named Drew Ungvarsky who was pretty good at webpage design, and I asked if he'd build ours," Henry said. "He said he'd be happy to do it. But by the time he was a sophomore, we'd lost him as our web guy.

**"MOST PITCHMEN ARE LOUD AND PROUD OF THEMSELVES," UNGVASKY SAID. HE PREFERS A LAID-BACK LOOK.**





*Open space encourages a sense of collaboration at Grow in downtown Norfolk.*

“Drew told me, ‘I found a way to be a consultant.’ I knew right then he was going to be successful and really good at whatever he did. He did things that made him stand out in an Honors College full of standouts.”

But Ungvarsky acknowledged he hasn’t always had the Midas touch. For instance, asked about his company’s original name, he lowered his eyes and grimaced. “Can’t hide from it. It was Drew Media. Not very creative, was it?”

When he rebranded his company, he went with Grow Interactive, later shortening it to Grow.

“I thought it said a lot with very few letters,” Ungvarsky said. “It just felt classic to me.”

**Ungvarsky has taken** a leading role in making Norfolk pop and sizzle.

“As the future unfolds, the greatest commodity isn’t going to be oil or water,” former Norfolk Mayor Paul Fraim said. “It’s going to be talent. And Drew has done a great job of bringing talent to Norfolk.” And making the city more attractive to that talent.

When Grow needed extra space, Ungvarsky acquired adjacent property on Granby Street but kept the first floor vacant. After vetting 17 proposals, he OK’d a hip lunchtime eatery called Field Guide to fill the void. Ungvarsky charges the proprietors half the standard rent.

He didn’t stop there. A board member of the Downtown Norfolk Council, he has been a big proponent of Norfolk’s NEON arts district. Last year, he received the Roy Badgley Distinguished Service Award from the council in recognition of his work to make downtown Norfolk a better place.

“Drew has been all about economic development for Norfolk as

much as he has for his own business,” said Ned Lilly, president and CEO of xTuple, a software company located a couple of blocks from Grow. “He attracts the right kind of people in whatever he’s doing and has this creative vibe that pulls you in and makes you want to be a part of something great.”

For Ungvarsky, it’s only the beginning.

“Norfolk will be really great if we just keep our foot to the floor,” he said. “There is a palpable energy right now about the place.”

**The onetime golden boy** sports flecks of gray in his closely cropped beard. His adult responsibilities include 6-year-old son Austin and infant daughter Annabelle. With wife Amber, who received an accounting degree from ODU in 2002, he is renovating a home in the Ghent section of Norfolk.

He once thought he’d make a career out of creating video games.

“But I’d be fooling myself to think I can code with some of the brilliant people I have working for me now,” Ungvarsky said. “I believe that my strength now is that I’m a great barometer of what’s really good.” 

*Rich Radford is web program manager at Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters. He understands a lot of what makes the tech world hum, but refuses to play Pokemon Go.*

## FOUR COOL FEATURES OF THE GROW OFFICE

*Exposed brick walls ■ Wide open space, with no cubicles and hardly any offices  
 ■ Four bikes on the wall, available for anyone needing a break ■ Open to pets; on a typical day a handful show up for work, even in the dog days of summer*



## FOUR COOL PERKS FOR EMPLOYEES OF GROW

*Stipends for people who bike, ride-share or walk to work ■ Two simultaneous paid weeks off in July and December (“The only way to fully check out is to know everyone else is, too,” Ungvarsky said.) ■ Fifty smartphones of all varieties on a table on the second floor, to test the latest brainstorm ■ Convenient dining, with Field Guide next door*





PHOTO: SHARA WEBER

# Her goal for the new year: **Visit every national park**

*By Janine Latus*



Top left photo: Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail in Utah. Top right: The lifeguard station at Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts. Bottom: Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. Photos: Deborah Archer



**D**eborah Archer tools along in the right lane, one cat on the seat beside her, the other in the carrier underneath, the Eastern Shore streaming past her windows. Her mealy Amazon parrot, Bird, squawks and talks from his swinging perch.

They're warming up for next year's epic road trip to visit every national park, monument and historic site in the country. The back of the van is cheerily plastered with stickers with silhouettes of bears and bighorn sheep and howling wolves, all emblems of where they've been, from the Everglades to Mount Rainier. In 2015, Archer – who graduated from Old Dominion in 2006, *bald and cum laude* in mechanical engineering technology – put 60,000 miles on her van. She visited 374 of the then-411 national park units as a member of the National Park Travelers Club, an organization of nearly 2,000 people who carry passports and collect visa-like stamps at sites as majestic as Yosemite National Park and as obscure as the Ohio home of one of the first Buffalo Riders.

She won't hit as many this year, but she plans to make the full circuit in 2017.

**Archer has visited battlefields**, seashores and up and down the Trail of Tears. She's been to Muscle Shoals and across the Mississippi Delta. She's watched hundreds of welcome center videos, gazed into dusty display cases and at maps and posters all over the country, at each site presenting her passport for at least one stamp and usually buying a sticker for the back of her van.

Last year she accumulated 1,070 stamps, earning first place among her peers and the 2015 Gold Level Master Traveler Award. That's nearly twice as many stamps as gathered by the second runner-up, says Roland Spies, president of the club.

"Our members are people who love stories of America, and this gives us an organized way to pursue them," he says.

## Just how many national parks are there?

The National Park Service lists 413 areas, or units, including monuments, rivers and battlefields. Of that total, 59 are designated as national parks.

**2016**  
National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL



**A**rcher, 67, words it differently. “We’re like-minded OCD people,” she says, “traveling with focus and purpose.” Her journey was fueled by pain – hers, her boyfriend’s and her son’s.

In 2007, Archer was lying in a hospital bed in Richmond, bored to distraction as she recovered from a bone marrow transplant to treat Stage IV non-Hodgkin lymphoma. On her laptop, she mapped out the perfect B&B luxury trip around the country.

Fast-forward to 2012. When her boyfriend died, Archer felt the need finally to travel.

The B&B trip was beyond her means, so she packed up her boyfriend’s Prius and drove across the country, putting in more than 13,600 miles, camping out and staying in cheap motels, one near Devils Tower National Monument, where “Close Encounters of the Third Kind” was filmed, in a town with a population of about 80. Her room had animal heads on the walls and a Jacuzzi.

Archer came to love the road.

**She was born in Tokyo** and grew up as a self-described Army brat.

Adventure is in her bones.

She married a man who worked for the United States Agency for International Development and moved to Egypt, where she studied with an 83-year-old Egyptologist, learned to scuba dive and worked as a scuba instructor. Archer and her then-husband moved to El Salvador, where she started a business baking cheesecake, tres leches and garlic bread for the countrywide Pizza Hut franchisee.

Eventually, Archer returned to the United States. In 2014, when a son in California was diagnosed with cancer, she sold her yellow Miata and the house she’d co-owned on the Eastern Shore and bought a staid and stable white van so she could go care for her son.

She and her other son added solar panels to the roof – “thinking like an engineer helped,” she says – plus a bed and latched cabinets so plates and pans wouldn’t fly out while she rounded corners.

Archer created a space for the cats’ litter box, accessible through a small tunnel, and a pull-out tray for Bird’s cage. She installed a waterless toilet and bought a butane stove to cook meals and make tea.

Then off she went to California, sleeping in campgrounds, Wal-Mart parking lots and truck stops, where she’d order oatmeal, trade \$12 for a clean towel and hot shower, and meet people from all over the country. The van served as her home as she cared for her son. When he was well, she was off again, addicted to exploring the long ribbon of highway.

She hung an outline of the lower 48 in her van



*Left: West Point is in the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in New York. Right: White Sands National Monument in New Mexico.*

and filled it one state at a time with colorful stickers. The map from 2015 has stickers on every state, though she didn't get to every park; the one from 2016 is only half full.

Next year – to celebrate the 101st anniversary of the park system and her 10-year anniversary of being cancer-free – she's aiming to see them all, including those in American Samoa, Guam and Hawaii. She's installing a propane tank in the van so she doesn't freeze through mountain nights.

**Archer is petite** but unafraid.

In March, she drove to a park in northern Texas called Lake Meredith. The lake was dried up and abandoned, and as she tried to turn the van, her wheels sunk into the sand. Alone and without a cell signal, she wedged rocks and sticks under her wheels, rocking forward and back until she broke free.

Half a year later she sunk to her axles in a swampy West Virginia field that looked like a rice paddy. This time her phone worked and USAA towed her out.

She has seen drug deals in Wal-Mart parking lots, but she says she has never had reason to be afraid of other people. Her fears are simpler, like the night when she was hurtling across Louisiana and one of her cats accidentally stepped on the switch to open the passenger window. "Now that was scary," she says.

Archer doesn't get lonely, doesn't get bored.

She listens to books on tape, checks in with fellow travelers on Facebook, meets them at historic sites. Every day is fresh, she says.

Today, Archer has finished the drive to her latest destination, but she's not there yet. She faces into the wind on the taxi boat to Tangier Island. She'll learn that the British kept a naval flotilla nearby, then steamed up the shore to shell Baltimore, inspiring the National Anthem.

"That happens a lot," she says, grinning. "The knowledge I gain is incredible."

It is a gorgeous day and she is happily on her way to take in more history, maybe meet new people and definitely collect yet another stamp. 🏰

*Janine Latus is the author of "If I Am Missing or Dead." She lives in Chapel Hill, N.C., and is working on a memoir about her year house-sitting around the country. She's kicking herself for not knowing earlier about the national parks passport program. It's at [www.parkstamps.org](http://www.parkstamps.org).*

## FOUR MEMORABLE PARK VISITS

### ▶▶▶▶ **Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas**

I arrived on a cold, rainy day in April. A truck had thrown a rock into my windshield that morning, and I was tired. I found a beautiful campsite overlooking a stream with full hookups, and it cost only \$12 with my senior pass. I went over to the bathhouses and had a hot water spa treatment – from a mineral bath to a hot/cold compress to a mani-pedi. A day that had started badly turned into a wonderful experience.



### ▶▶▶▶ **Padre Island National Seashore, Texas**



The weather hadn't been cooperating, again, when I pulled into the campsite, but the company was great. People from New Zealand, France and Canada were my neighbors for the night, and their delight fueled mine. The

next morning, the fog moved off, and we could see the bay lapping at the foot of the campground.

### ▶▶▶▶ **Fort Monroe National Monument, Virginia**

It's been a favorite for many years – even before it was designated a park unit in 2011. I've enjoyed movie night and walked the wall, coming across the pet cemetery on top. It's rich in history, from the War of 1812 to the Civil War. Robert E. Lee was an engineer there, and Jefferson Davis was confined there after the war.



### ▶▶▶▶ **Keweenaw National Historical**

**Park, Upper Peninsula of Michigan** – I'd never been to this incredible area. I loved the architecture and the diversity – from lighthouses to copper mines to stone buildings. I'm glad these are being preserved. It's too easy to lose a part of history during economic downturns.



# Norfolk Mayor Kenny Alexander '90 foresees new connections with ODU

By Philip Walzer

**H**istory was made in Norfolk on May 3. That day, citizens elected for the first time a mayor who graduated from Old Dominion University – Kenny Alexander '90. Alexander, a former state senator who took office as mayor on July 1, recalled a challenging curriculum at Old Dominion and a strong network of support from professors and students.

In his new job, he hopes to build another layer of support, vowing to increase collaboration between the city and the university.

“You have a major employer with faculty, staff and students who are eager to get involved,” Alexander, 50, said. “We shouldn’t miss that opportunity.”

“This is a moment for Norfolk, for ODU and for all of us to really come together and bring our best ideas to this space and harvest those ideas. If we get it right, we’ll all be better for it.”

Old Dominion’s president, John R. Broderick, said: “I am excited for our city that Sen. Alexander is now Mayor Alexander. I have worked with him

the entire time he served in the General Assembly. He has always wanted to do the right thing for Norfolk, Hampton Roads and higher education. His passionate advocacy for ODU was a great reason why we have been successful in Richmond.”

**Alexander grew up** in the Berkley section of Norfolk. As a teenager, he weighed multiple career paths – religion, politics, music, mortuary science – reflecting his family’s diverse influences.

His grandmother was the secretary at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. His family owned Metropolitan Funeral Services. His relatives played the French horn and piano, and sang.

How did politics get onto the list? Alexander met plenty of politicians who spoke at the church and also got their petitions notarized at the funeral home.

At Lake Taylor High School, Alexander played the sax and oboe. But he chose the family business, at least initially.

He received an associate degree in mortuary science from John Tyler Community College, outside Richmond, in 1987. He returned to work at the funeral home, but a year later his grandmother told him, “You need to be a kid again.”

**After a semester** at Hampton University, Alexander enrolled at Old Dominion in the summer of 1988.

“It was hard,” he said, “but there was a lot of support, not only from the faculty and staff, but also from the students. I just found Old Dominion to be a great university community. Everything was geared around your academic achievement.”

He wasn’t involved in the Student Senate, for good reason. He had gone back to working full time at the funeral home and took most of his classes in the evenings.

That didn’t stop Alexander from shouldering an ambitious course load, ranging from bioethics to jurisprudence. Among his most influential professors: John Ramsey in political



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNY ALEXANDER

science, who was tough but instilled research skills that Alexander said provided lifelong benefit.

Others included Al Rollins, who taught classes while president and introduced Alexander to the civil rights book “Eyes on the Prize”; Marty Sheffer, whose constitutional law class included a visit to the U.S. Supreme Court, and Mary Ann Tetreault, who taught “The Politics of Energy.”

**Alexander’s brightest accomplishment:** getting the highest quiz grade in a math

**“I just found Old Dominion to be a great university community. Everything was geared around your academic achievement.”**

class. “I really worked hard for it, but I knew it would be short-lived.”

Alexander graduated in 1990 with a degree in political science. A few years later, he took over the funeral home after the premature death of his father.

He juggled his job duties with civic activities, leading the Beacon Light Civic League in Berkley and serving as a member of Norfolk’s Economic Development Authority and Planning Commission. That rekindled his interest in politics.

Alexander, a Democrat, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2002, serving there for 10 years before winning election to the Senate in 2012. During that time, he received a master’s degree in diplomacy from Norwich University.

In the General Assembly, Alexander said his proudest achievements included securing more state funding for Old Dominion and winning passage of a bill requiring hospitals and midwives to provide information on postpartum depression to new mothers.

**In May of this year,** he received 52 percent of the vote in a three-way race for

Norfolk mayor, becoming the first African-American elected to that position.

Alexander said he sought the job because of the social challenges facing the city: “That’s my area of expertise.”

And that’s where he sees his alma mater coming in.

The city and Old Dominion, he said, have already worked together to address flooding and sea level rise. “I would like to see more collaboration and more partnership with the university” on issues such as

public safety and education.

“I want to take this asset here on the west side and bring some of that innovation and energy throughout downtown and the rest of the city to help us address some of our social and economic ills,” Alexander said.

“It’s almost a ‘must’ in the place where we find ourselves.”

## ODU, NORFOLK OPEN INNOVATION CENTER

The latest partnership between Old Dominion and the city of Norfolk was officially launched over the summer: The ODU Innovation Center – Norfolk.

The center, in downtown Norfolk, serves as a work space and brainstorming hub for local entrepreneurs, who can share ideas and access services provided by Old Dominion’s Center for Enterprise Innovation. Those services include outreach to women and veterans and help for government contractors trying to break into the private market.

The innovation center “moves us one big step forward” in ODU’s mission to “promote an entrepreneurial culture” in the region, said David Harnage, the university’s chief operating officer, who spearheaded its creation.

Mayor Kenny Alexander ‘90 said: “This will provide an opportunity for businesses not only to start here, but to grow here.”

Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony, said, “This is what we have to do to grow the economy. Old Dominion has really been a leader in this area.”

*Hear what Mayor Alexander and Gov. McAuliffe said at the center’s opening at [www.odu.edu/monarchmag/innovation](http://www.odu.edu/monarchmag/innovation)*



# Providing care at life's end

By Jim Raper

**D**r. Marissa Galicia-Castillo '94 (M.S. Ed. '06) got an early start in medicine. A public school student in Norfolk, she was in the Magnet School for the Health Professions, taking science classes at Eastern Virginia Medical School. After graduating from Old Dominion, she attended EVMS, where she is Sue Faulkner Scribner professor of geriatrics, specializing in end-of-life care.

She's also medical director for health care at Harbor's Edge retirement community. Galicia-Castillo – who is married to Arnel Castillo '93 (M.E.M. '08) – spoke recently about how a family tragedy influenced her career and what she's learned along the way.

## How did your grandmother's death impact your future?

I was 15, and I remember trying to write a paper on "Wound Healing" for biology while we were holding vigil at the hospital. I remember her being active and vibrant just a few days before. How is it that she is now dying in the intensive care unit? Looking back, I can piece together the picture: She had diabetes and high blood pressure and ultimately developed kidney failure.

Not understanding the situation led to my feeling helpless. From that time forward, I wanted to ensure I knew what was going on and help others understand medical situations.

## What was your experience like at Old Dominion?

I had a great time with Ms. Nancy Wade, Drs. Charles Bell, Mark Elliott and Louis Henry, to name a few. I had the privilege of being a Dominion Scholar, which provided me a four-year scholarship. I was also able to explore more than the sciences. We started the Filipino American Student Association in 1991. The BS/MD program allowed me to start my first year of

medical school during my senior year of college.

## Offer an example of how your work improved a patient's life.

A gentleman I cared for a few years ago at Harbor's Edge was in his 90s. He had mild dementia, emphysema, mild kidney failure and congestive heart failure. He wanted to spend his time at home and not in and out of the hospital. We were able to enroll him in hospice and reduce his medications from about 20

to about four to five. After just a day, he said he felt much better.

He remained in hospice for two years, staying in his home and avoiding hospitalizations. So not only did he live well, I feel he lived longer because of hospice.

## You've said modern day palliative care is a "throwback" to earlier medical practice. Can you elaborate?

The "throwback" refers to a time when physicians did not have the vast number of tools in their toolbox. The focus was on caring for patients and helping them live the best that they could until death occurred, usually at home.

I have a block in my office with the message: "Don't just do something – stand there." This demonstrates the need to stop, reflect and have conversations before doing something that may not be aligned with patients' and families' true wishes.

## What surprises others about your focus on end-of-life care?

Students, residents, physicians and health care professionals will ask how I don't become depressed. The reward of being able to help a patient and family reach their goals

is incredibly fulfilling. Geriatrics and palliative medicine are low-tech, high-touch specialties that have high impact.

*Jim Raper is a former editor of Monarch magazine.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVMS

*"I have a block in my office with the message: 'Don't just do something – stand there.'" – Dr. Marissa Galicia-Castillo*



## DeVon Taylor '12: From poverty in Flint to a residency at Duke

By Brendan O'Hallarn

He's already achieved one version of the American Dream. After growing up in poverty in Flint, Mich., DeVon Taylor '12 graduated from Old Dominion University and, this year, from Harvard Medical School. Taylor recently began a three-year residency in emergency medicine at the prestigious Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C.

And that experience has inspired Taylor to pursue a new version of the American Dream, going beyond personal success: expanding access to health care.

"A large proportion of the patients we see in the emergency rooms have nowhere else to go," Taylor, 33, said. "It's something as a country that I feel we haven't adequately addressed. Hopefully, that will be an area I am able to make a mark in."

Taylor rarely saw a doctor when he was younger. As a teenager in Flint, he lived in a run-down home in a poor neighborhood. His mother worked multiple jobs to keep the family going.

After barely graduating from high school, Taylor joined the Navy, working in the nuclear power program in Norfolk for more than eight years. When he enrolled at Old Dominion, he had already trained

his focus on a medical career.

He graduated in 2012 with a 4.0 grade point average and a degree in public health. Taylor became the first Old Dominion graduate to go directly to Harvard Medical School, and on a full scholarship.

He maintained his ties with the University while at Harvard, mentoring minority undergraduates interested in entering the medical field.

During his time in medical school, Taylor was national speaker of the House of Delegates for the Student National Medical Association, elected by students representing every medical school in the nation, and served as a member of the association's board.

He also participated in several research projects, studying the rollout of the Pioneer Accountable Care Organizations (Pioneer ACO), a new risk-sharing payment model that emerged from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare.

He presented his findings to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

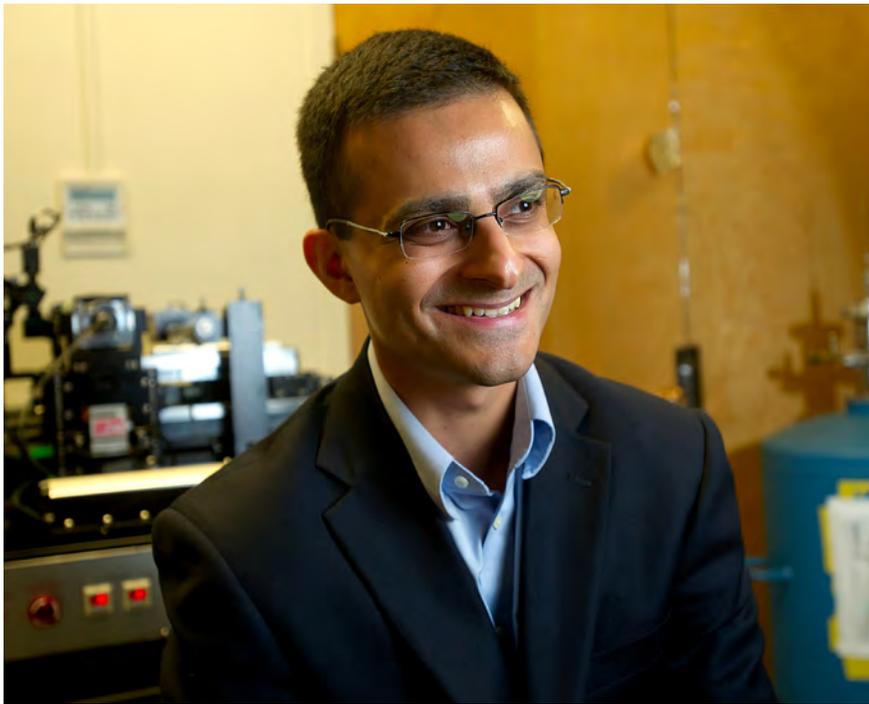
That work fits with Taylor's belief that access to medical services, particularly for children, is a right that all Americans should enjoy.

"To me, it doesn't make sense that we have made this choice as a society, in the richest country in the world," he said.

Taylor would like to practice in a medically underserved community. He'd also like to work on the front lines of health policy to ensure that others receive the level of care that eluded him as a youth.

"There are people who work hard but who still can't afford the cost of health care," Taylor said. "Like my mother."

*Brendan O'Hallarn is a public relations specialist at Old Dominion University.*



# Pathbreaking research no sweat for Ali Javey '01

By Andrew Faught



**“The beauty of this is that it is a comfortable and easy-to-wear system,” Javey told The New York Times.**

**A**li Javey '01 is raising a stink. But it's all in the name of science. While most of us turn up our noses at the sour bouquet of sweat, Javey finds inspiration in perspiration. The California researcher is developing a wearable sweat sensor that could alert a user – in conjunction with a smart device – to serious health risks.

“The sensor would sit on the skin, like a disposable patch or Band-Aid,” says Javey, a professor of electrical engineering and computer sciences at the University of California, Berkeley. “We are basically living in a world where we are integrating more and more sensors all around us. The biggest market that has not been fully exploited yet are these health sensors.”

Sensors aren't expected to be sold to the public in the immediate future, but Javey predicts the

technology will be “very low cost.”

Because sweat is a complex mix of water, minerals, lactate and urea, and skin temperatures constantly change, scientists have been unable to measure more than a single molecular component at a time. Javey's creation can measure multiple components – including sodium, potassium, calcium and glucose.

Real-time sodium readings can alert an athlete to dehydration “before it's too late,” says Javey, whose work has been featured in *The New York Times* and *Nature*.

His research isn't just for fitness buffs. Javey is about to begin a new phase of sensor development that could detect dangerous heavy metals, such as lead, in the body.

“If you're exposed to a high concentration of heavy metals, the body tries to get rid of them as quickly as possible through sweating and urine, so sweat can provide you with earlier signs that ‘Hey, you're working in an environment or you're drinking water that is contaminated with heavy metals, so watch out,’” Javey says.

He's also planning research to learn whether sweat can provide an alert to severe depression.

“There are neuromolecular signatures that you can find at high concentrations in sweat,” Javey says. “If we can measure those substances, we may be able to tell people that they're under too much stress and need to take a particular medication.”

“Ali has always been brilliant,” says John Cooper, professor and chairman of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry. Javey walked into his lab as a sophomore, saying: “I hear you have lasers.” A year later, he had developed a laser fiber-optic sensor and submitted an article that was published in a chemistry journal.

It was in Norfolk that Javey learned to sweat the details. “One important aspect of research is not just the topic itself,” he says, “but learning how to do research, how to define problems and how to tackle problems.”

*Andrew Faught is a California freelance writer who has written widely about higher education. When he's not writing, Faught can be found sweating another disappointing Los Angeles Angels baseball season.*

# EFK makes science and tech FUN FOR KIDS

By Gail Kent (M.F.A. '08)

**DORI ROBERTS '97 (M.S.'00)** may be the only parent with bragging rights for turning a PTA fundraiser into a multi-million-dollar global company profiled in *Forbes* and *Fast Company*.

Roberts, 42 – who received her bachelor's degree in math and science elementary/middle school education and a master's in technology education from ODU – is president of Engineering for Kids, based in Fredericksburg.

EFK hosts afterschool and evening programs, as well as summer camps and birthday parties, to entice youngsters into the world of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

The goal: to learn by doing, having fun along the way.

Students from ages 4 to 14 design parachutes or lunar landers, roller coasters or catapults. In one project, they use a six-step engineering process to build a bottle rocket, while learning such concepts as lift, thrust and acceleration. They finish by filling their rockets with water and air and testing them with a launcher.

Roberts, who lives in Fredericksburg with her husband and two children, taught engineering for 11 years at a high school in Stafford. She started a chapter of Technology Student Association (TSA), which won state and national competitions and grew to 180 members.

But she worried that her own kids weren't learning how to apply math and science. "I had an opportunity through the PTA to pitch an idea to raise money for the elementary school, so I suggested starting a civil engineering club. I put a curriculum together that had kids building bridges and towers."

"It just took off," Roberts says. She quit her job to launch EFK in 2009. Now EFK operates 160 franchises in 25 countries. Nine are in Virginia.

Crystal Head Bonser (M.S. Ed. '11) of Portsmouth, a second-grade teacher in Newport News, enrolled her 7-year-old son, Dexter, in the Crazy Concoctions Camp, focusing on chemical engineering.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DORI ROBERTS



"He absolutely loved it," Bonser says. "He learned so many new vocabulary words, and it kept his brain going through the summer."

Roberts wants to spread excitement for STEM careers, especially among girls.

Federal statistics show that women hold nearly half of the jobs in the United States, but less than 25 percent of those related to STEM.

Even at EFK, "as they go through the program, the number of girls drops a little," Roberts says. "Our goal is to see them continue through high school and college."

Roberts recently received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Alumni Association. She credits much of her success to her alma mater: "ODU gave me the interest in teaching and technology. Because I had such a great experience, I started TSA. So it really all started at ODU."

*Gail Kent is a freelance writer and an adjunct English instructor at ODU.*

# Meals fit for a Monarch

Old Dominion's students have been enjoying uncommonly fine meals, with the opening of the Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons this fall.

The dining hall, which student leaders requested be named after the president and first lady, seats 550. Their menu options include Brazilian-style steak, sushi and tapas, eaten on marble tabletops. "It's beyond what I'd expected," senior Wendi Hernandez said. "I'd give it a 10 out of 10."



PHOTOS: ROBERTO WESTBROOK



## BY THE NUMBERS

The Dining Commons can make:

**200** DOZEN TAMALES AN HOUR

**450** SUSHI ROLLS AN HOUR

**900** TORTILLAS AN HOUR

**90** POUNDS OF PASTA AN HOUR

**21**  
PIZZAS AT  
ONE TIME

**17**  
TYPES OF  
PASTA

**5**  
TYPES OF  
SALSA

**3**  
SIZES OF  
RAVIOLI



## THE POSSIBILITIES

The dining options include:

### **BUD'S AMERICAN CLASSICS** –

Offering good ole American fare like Southern fried chicken and named for Bud Paul, who ran the school's first snack bar.

### **MAIZE SOUTH AMERICAN KITCHEN** –

Serving meat, veggies and fish cooked on a churrasco grill or rotisserie.

### **RICE STICKS ASIAN KITCHEN**

– Step up to the noodle bar for your choice of noodle, broth and protein. Or try a dish from the wok section or hibachi grill.

### **MOSAIC INTERNATIONAL** –

A moving platform brings you tapas such as teriyaki wings with Asian slaw, and a sushi robot rolls out its delicacies.

## THE EARLY REVIEWS

*"The cherry crêpes were good, and I don't even eat cherries."* – Jazmine Snoddy, junior

*"I just had the shrimp tacos, and they were amazing. They were garlicky and delicious."* – Matty Sullivan, junior

*"The steak was really tender. It had a lot of flavor in it."* – Austin Greenhill, sophomore

*"The pizza actually tasted like New Jersey (a compliment). The slices are really big. I liked the sauce, too – it's not as thick as usual."* – Isaiah Fernandez, sophomore

*"I had fried rice with chicken and vegetables, and they also gave us miso soup and salad. I loved it."* – Wendi Hernandez, senior



**ONLY ONE OTHER UNIVERSITY IN THE COUNTRY HAS A SUSHI ROBOT, ACCORDING TO FOOD-SERVICE DIRECTOR MAGAZINE.**

**What's your favorite dish at the new dining commons?**

**Share a picture on Instagram or Twitter and include #myfavODUdish or email [monarchmag@odu.edu](mailto:monarchmag@odu.edu).**

# HEROES BEHIND THE SCENES

By Mary Architzel Westbrook Photography: Roberto Westbrook



## 'I WANTED TO GET IT RIGHT'

### LINDA BAKER

Senior Executive Secretary, Army ROTC

I grew up on a farm in Emporia (Va.). That was hard work. Hand-me-down clothes. So I have an appreciation for what I have now. I'm just happy.

I followed my sister to college at Norfolk State and started working at ODU in January 1980. Back then, I used to stand in front of the mirror at night, repeating the military ranks of the people in the office: lieutenant colonel, major, captain. It was a different world. I wanted to get it right.

No one calls me Linda. It's always Ms. B. I call all the students my babies - young, old, doesn't matter. I look at them and say, "Why did you come here? To get your degree. Let's do this. Stay focused. Go to the library. Don't worry about drinking and smoking. Don't worry about cliques. Get involved with something good. Do something great." I also work with students through the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity - kids who have gotten into some trouble. I want to find the good in them.

Last year, I met a young man, a communication and theatre arts major. I had this draft of a play I'd written about the women of the Bible; it had been in my files for five years. I told this student, "You're going to help me, and I'm going to help you." We sat down and worked on the play together. It ended up being staged at the University Theatre last spring - one performance. It was wonderful. The lights! Just to be on stage. The student graduated that semester. That made me so happy. I get energy from helping others.

There are sad sides to the job. I've been to Arlington National Cemetery three times. Standing at a graveside or hearing about a student in active duty in war - that's a real hard thing. But on a rainy day, when a student calls and says, "Ms. B., I'm bringing you lunch so you don't have to go outside," that speaks volumes. When they come back after graduating to say, "You encouraged me in the days I needed it most," that's better than any medal.

Hear more from Linda Baker at [www.odu.edu/monarch-mag/baker](http://www.odu.edu/monarch-mag/baker).



## 'SOUND MIND, BEST JUDGMENT'

### RICHARD COX

Captain, R/V Fay Slover, a 55-foot Coast Guard-inspected research vessel

learning curve. Every year, we take a lab supervisor and two grad students up the James, Rappahannock and York rivers. They collect mud and then filter through it, looking for creatures. Those can be intense 12-hour days.

Water quality testing takes up a lot of our time. We go all the way up to Maryland, 27 stations, collecting water, once a month during the school year, twice a month in the summer. August is our busiest month. We come home, refuel and then go out again.

I grew up mostly in a small town across the Pamlico Sound from Cape Hatteras. I earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star in Vietnam. For a few years, I worked in financial management, chasing delinquent accounts, wearing a suit. I couldn't handle that. I joined the Army Corps of Engineers, like my grandfather, also Richard, before me.

I started at ODU in 2003 once I retired from the Corps. I earned my Coast Guard captain's license while in the Corps. When I'm not working, I boat and fish. Fix things. If my schedule allows it, I deliver boats for other people. I like to be on the water. I don't let too much grass grow under me.

Every now and then, I run into former students. I feel like if I passed knowledge on to them, it's a reason for being here. Sometimes you get frustrated, but you take a deep breath and move forward. You never know what's around the corner.

**W**hen students or faculty request the boat, they want to step on board and get right to work. The vessel has computers everywhere, Wi-Fi and satellite TV, but there are variables you don't have in the classroom. Some students get seasick and have to tough it out. You may have a faculty member or scientist who wants to do something that isn't safe. Every day is not a clear blue day. You need to have a sound mind and then make your best judgment.

The range of research projects people conduct on-board is broad – biology, oceanography. I'm always on a

## FOUR EXEMPLARY EMPLOYEES WHO TAKE EXTRA PRIDE IN THEIR WORK AND MAKE THE CAMPUS SHINE

## 'EVERYTHING'S A LESSON'

### SANDI REARDON

Student Technology, Employment Program and Lab Manager, Information Technology Services

I oversee 650 work stations, 65 printers and a student technology employment program, implemented in 2009. Back then, I had 65 student workers any fall or spring. Now, I'm up to 125. We're always on call. The university has grown. It's not a commuter school anymore.

I'm huge on process and I tend to like jobs other people don't – payroll, budgets, running reports, writing operating procedures – but I live for working with the students. Through our program, they get work experience that doesn't come through a textbook.

My philosophy is that anyone on my team should be able to get the answer to any question. We may have to get back to you, but we won't send you to another location. We'll find the answer. That's good service. In my tiny office, students hear me on the phone, helping someone who is frustrated, saying, "OK, breathe. We're going to get through this together. I'm not going to hang up until you're happy." Everything's a lesson.

Anybody can learn technical skills. I teach my students to be professionals: arrive on time, communicate, dress for the job you want. We go through employee reviews. At the end of the semester, we talk about how to make processes better. They're involved with everything.

Sometimes, students bring their own issues to work; learning to not do that is huge. It makes a big difference. You have to show them the impact of their decisions, how they affect others. Everyone waits in lines. When it's your turn, don't you want to be greeted? Don't you want someone to smile? What else do we live for?



## 'I'M LIKE A MACHINE'

### DWIGHT WILLIFORD

Grounds Lead Worker

**W**alking around campus, you can tell when a student is new or coming from another place, outside of the area. You see their puzzled look. If I'm around, the first thing I say is, "You look lost. How can I help?" I'm a people person. Ask anyone who to go to for help and they'll say, "That guy."

Working outside year-round, people get deterred: "It's too hot out here." I have to keep my team positive. I'll say, "Think about something cool and relaxing." I personally don't have to do that. I'm like a machine, a robot. I just go. Maybe it's because I used to be in the Army.

I didn't get into this job because I have a green thumb. It was more about the mowing. My dad used to do the mowing at our house when I was a kid. I thought it looked cool, so I took it over. Then, when I was stationed in Kentucky, we'd have gardening duty and mow the post with push mowers. I can't turn it off anymore. I'll be stopped at a stoplight far from campus still thinking, "That median needs to be mowed" or "That doesn't look good." I've been doing this now for 20 years.

I mow and manage the mall myself. It's my favorite place on campus. So many people come through it every day. Once, my supervisor sent me a link to the ODU website, which has a picture of the mall, and he said, "Look at your work!" Bam! There it was, the first thing people see. It's a beautiful place, especially at graduation time, when students walk from Webb Center to the Ted. It means a lot to be part of that.

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*Mary Architzel Westbrook (M.F.A. '10) is a freelance writer who lives with her husband, Roberto, and two sons in Norfolk. Her favorite part of her job is that it gives her an excuse to be nosy and ask other people about their lives.*



# STUDENTS, PROFESSORS TEAM UP TO DISCOVER **WHAT'S TICKING**

*By Michael Knepler*

*Photography by Roberto Westbrook*

Laura Bitzer traipses through tangled undergrowth in Portsmouth seeking an encounter with nymphs.

It sounds idyllic, but the nymphs Bitzer stalks at Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve are not fair maidens of the forest but juvenile ticks.

She's a member of Old Dominion University's tick research team, a varsity squad of biology and environmental health majors – and one tick-killing robot – which has scored some 150,000 ticks since 2010.

ODU's interest in the annoying arachnids goes back more than half a century. That dedication has created a specialty with bite at the university, experts say.



**“ODU IS THE PRIMARY UNIVERSITY IN VIRGINIA DOING TICK RESEARCH ...** and they’re certainly doing a lot of great research,” says David Gaines, the state’s public health entomologist.

Leading the tick team is Holly Gaff, an associate professor of biological sciences, who branched from mathematical modeling into field work. Other specialists include molecular biologist David Gauthier and microbiologist Wayne Hynes, who teach students to extract and analyze DNA from the captured ticks.

It all began with Daniel Sonenshine, who brought his sh-tick to ODU in 1961. The world-renowned biologist co-wrote the definitive two-volume “Biology of Ticks.”

“Ticks is a really horrifying subject to many individuals,” Sonenshine concedes, his eyes twinkling. “In social settings, people don’t want to hear about ticks. End of subject.”

But he’s made sure that the world knows a lot more about them. Students have gone on to teach at other universities and work at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sonenshine, now retired, eagerly latched onto the larva of an idea hatched by Gaff after she arrived at the university in 2007: Build better data – by collecting more ticks – to improve forecasts of tick outbreaks and the spread of diseases.

**Richard S. Ostfeld, senior scientist** at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in New York, describes ODU’s work as “high-quality science” and admires Gaff’s contributions. “There are theoretical biologists happy enough to pursue theory without wanting to relate it to the real world, but others, like Holly Gaff, fell in love with the creepy crawlers,” Ostfeld says. “It’s only through long-term data like what Holly Gaff is collecting that we will be able to become more predictive about ticks and tick-borne diseases.”

The work of the tick team has already yielded significant

insights. “We found some ticks that are not supposed to be here,” Gaff says. They include two aggressive invading species – the northern one, nicknamed “The Monitor,” and the southern, dubbed “The Merrimack” – that could trigger a dramatic increase in Lyme disease when they converge here in greater numbers.

**The professors aren’t the only researchers.** “There’s no way we could do it without the students,” Hynes says. “And it takes a special type of student to do this work.”

Even on sweltering days, they tromp through 13 woodland and swamp sites across southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore to find out what’s ticking.

They have sprayed themselves with tick repellent, tucked pant legs into socks and learned to check themselves and teammates for telltale tiny dots that can swell obscenely if ticks suck human blood for several hours or days.

Their equipment ranges from simple white cloth flags attached to wooden poles to the sophisticated tick-killing robot.

*Biologist Holly Gaff searches for the critters at Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve.*



**“THERE’S NO WAY WE COULD DO IT WITHOUT THE STUDENTS. AND IT TAKES A SPECIAL TYPE OF STUDENT TO DO THIS WORK.”**

—BIOLOGIST WAYNE HYNES

*"We found some ticks that are not supposed to be here," says Holly Gaff, associate professor of biological sciences.*



Bitzer, who aims to go into infectious disease research, has grown adept at using the flags to catch ticks, including the black-legged deer tick in its juvenile, or nymph, stage. Such ticks can infect humans with Lyme disease.

Other students operate the robot.

"Sounds sexier than it is," Gaff says of the robo-tick contraption, which resembles a small Mars Rover more than R2-D2 of "Star Wars" fame.

The battery-powered robot comes with porous rubber tubing that emits carbon dioxide to lure ticks. "Ticks are attracted to carbon dioxide," Bitzer explains. "So if we could just stop breathing, we wouldn't be their targets."

Like its human teammates, the robot drags a white flag, but this one is coated with a pesticide that kills ticks on contact. Someday, such a machine could sweep ticks from a backyard or other limited areas. One potential glitch, though, is that a pine cone lying in its path can immobilize the robot – the same way kryptonite humbles Superman.

Team members, acting like a merry band of ticksters, also do community outreach, especially at summer camps, teaching schoolchildren how to avoid ticks.

**The little creatures hardly faze** the young researchers.

Bitzer used to pick them off animals on her family's farm in Ohio. "I've found a couple of new friends on me," she says, "but so far I've been able to catch them before they made a home on me."

Relatives of some of the students have even gotten into the spirit of the project.

Alexis White, a doctoral student in ecology, says her parents save dead ticks for her in plastic bags. "When I visit, I get home-cooked meals – and more ticks." 🐾

*Michael Knepler is a freelance writer in Norfolk. He added to the tick team's collection by donating a tick that bit him over the summer. He's doing fine.*

## SONENSHINE HAS TRACKED TICKS FOR 60 YEARS

Daniel Sonenshine's fascination with ticks began when he was a doctoral student at the University of Maryland in the mid-1950s. His professor said, "Here's what you should do: Go out there and collect ticks."



Sonenshine listened.

In 1961, Sonenshine came to ODU, then the Norfolk Division of the College of William & Mary.

Six months later, "I got a call from the local office of the Virginia Health Department. They said, 'We heard you're a tick expert' and 'We need help on a big project on Rocky Mountain

spotted fever. We don't have anybody who can identify the ticks.'"

Soon he was leading the project. It entailed extensive field study in rural Montpelier, Va., where Sonenshine said he worked out of a century-old house formerly used by sharecroppers and moonshiners.

"I got up at 4 in the morning to get on the road by 5 and drive two hours to get there every day," he recalls of the 120-mile commute.

Sonenshine studied ticks with his microscope. Today's examinations use advanced technology, including DNA analysis. "As the tools have improved, we can begin asking questions that never occurred to us," he says.

In 1983, Sonenshine received the

university's Tonelson Award for academic excellence and he was designated an eminent scholar in 1989. Although technically retired he continues to conduct tick research.

He recently contributed to pioneering work that identified the genome of tick species responsible for Lyme disease. The project may help scientists understand how ticks transmit bacteria and ways to control ticks by interfering with their genes.

In addition to his worldwide reputation as a tick magnate, Sonenshine admits to being a tick magnet.

"I've had so many tick bites," he quips, "that when they bite me they die. If you want to kill ticks, just put me out in the woods."



# FREAKY FACTS ABOUT TICKS



**865**

The number of known species of ticks in the world. Thirteen to 18 are in Virginia, with 10 of those in the southeastern part of the state, says Holly Gaff.

**Mites**

Ticks aren't insects; they're a type of mite and are related to spiders.

**Annual  
MEAL**

Ticks eat just once a year. When they do, they feast on blood meals for humans or animals for up to 14 days and can consume 75 to 100 times their body weight.

**HOW  
Small?**

Larvae can be as small as the period at the end of this sentence. Well-fed adults can balloon to the size of a small grape.

**LYME**

Virginia reported 1,539 cases in 2015, the third straight record-breaking year. Lyme disease isn't fatal. But if left untreated, it can cause permanent complications such as facial paralysis, fatigue and joint pain due to arthritis.



# A MONTAGE OF MONARCH MARRIAGES

*By Philip Walzer*

Some students leave Old Dominion University not only with a degree, but also with a life partner. Their relationships might ignite with a lightning bolt – a glance at each other in a class – or something as gentle as a prayer session.

But sometimes it takes years from their initial meeting on campus to reach the romance stage. A simmering friendship can intensify after a chance meeting at a wedding or a deep personal loss. The late-blooming couples say it's worth the wait: "We both grew up," said Paulette Ullom '94, who started dating her now-husband, Chris '94, six years after they met in a kinesiology class. "We realized we were the right people for each other."

Here are the stories of six Monarch marriages:



## ALTON '01 AND TASHAWNDA (HANSHAW) JAMISON '01

**Their story:** A simple prayer request – both were members of the Ebony Impact Gospel Choir – got them together. They married in 2003 and live outside Baton Rouge, La., where Alton, 38, is an engineer and TaShawnda, 40, is a homemaker and former math teacher. They have two children: Madison, 9, and Joshua, 3. They published their first book, "Purpose, Passion and Prosperity: 3 Keys to a Godly Marriage," this summer.

**How it got started:** In the fall of their freshman year, at the end of a choir rehearsal in Whitehurst Hall, it was time for prayer requests. Alton asked for help because he was struggling in precalculus. "And I just raised my hand and said I would help," TaShawnda said. "That was out of the norm for me. Nothing but God made me do that and step out of my comfort zone."

**What happened next:** They officially started going out in December of that year. "I had told God that I didn't want to date anymore," TaShawnda said. "But I knew there was something different about him that opened up my eyes and my heart that quickly." He proposed in 2002, after they graduated.

**Their routine on campus:** "I'd grab all of my baking dishes and go over to her room at Powhatan and we'd cook dinner, usually Hamburger Helper, and study together," Alton said. "We had extremely tough classes."

**So how'd the tutoring go?:** "She was a heck of a tutor and a great math teacher. I got an A that semester."

**Keys to a happy marriage:** TaShawnda: "Keeping the lines of communication open, being able to share with each other whatever is in your heart." Alton: "Learning how to get rid of all of my selfishness and put the needs of my wife and kids in the forefront."

## CHRIS '94 AND PAULETTE (HUGHES) ULLOM '94

**Their story:** The sports medicine majors first noticed each other in a kinesiology course. Not much movement, but a few telltale signs: They spent lots of time together in a study group, and, between classes, Paulette sometimes fell asleep with her head on Chris' shoulder. They started dating in 1997 and got married in 2002. He's the training director at Wareing's Gym; she's a nurse at Virginia Beach Ambulatory Surgery Center. The Ulloms, both 45, have three boys: Dominic, 12, Jake, 11, and Zachary, 5.

**Shy but sly:** In kinesiology class, "I was attracted to her right away," Chris said. "She had beautiful large blue eyes and blond hair, and I had a thing for girls with hats." Trouble was, they sat on opposite sides of the room. So Chris hatched a plan: Every class, he'd move one row closer. "It took me two weeks to get over there." Even before his maneuver, "I noticed him immediately," Paulette said. "He was the guy who knew every single answer." They started studying together. Nothing more.

**Predicting the future:** Chris told his mom: "I've met the girl I'm going to marry one day." Paulette: "I told my roommate, 'This is the type of guy I will marry.'" Still, they were with other people.

**Finally...:** Chris, shy no longer, called Paulette before he received his master's in physical education from Radford University. Chris: "I love you. I'm coming home. I'll be there for you." Paulette: "I have a boyfriend." Chris: "Not for long." He was right.

**No regrets:** They wouldn't have done it any differently. "We fell in love as people," Chris said, "not just as an intimacy." Paulette said: "We both grew up. We realized we were the right people for each other. I met some bad seeds to get to the right seed."



## HAROLD WILLIAMS '07 AND DR. KEISHA JOHNSON '06

**Their story:** They made an immediate connection freshman year in Rogers Hall: One of Harold's best friends was Keisha's cousin. It turned into a love connection several years after they graduated, at her cousin's wedding. Harold made it official with a surprise proposal at ODU this year. They'll tie the knot in June. She's a doctor with Eastern Virginia Medical School; he's associate director of alumni outreach at Old Dominion. Both are 32.

**When they were students:** They hung out regularly. They both joined the Student Activities Council as freshmen. As president of the ΠΑΑCP chapter, he persuaded Keisha to be vice president. "We were good friends; we would always confide in each other," Harold said.

**What happened later:** "He checked up on me a lot when I was in medical school (in the Caribbean) to make sure I was OK," Keisha said. "We tried dating long-distance, but it didn't work."

**The dance request that changed everything:** Harold was best man at the wedding last year of Reginald McCoy '07 – his friend and Keisha's cousin – and Latoya Tomlinson '04. Keisha: "He just came over and took my hand and led me to the dance floor." Harold: "I figured she couldn't say no." She later contacted him on Facebook. "He had been on my mind ever since then."

**The sweet proposal:** Harold ran in the Big Blue 5K in April this year. After that, he told Keisha he wanted to show her new construction near Whitehurst Beach. OK. When they got there, he reminded her that they went there one night as students to wish upon a star. "What did you wish for that night?" he asked her. "I wished we were dating," she said. "I can do you one better," he responded and got down on one knee. "Will you be my wife?"



## JOE AND MILLIE (SOROKO) SEGAL '45

**Their story:** "I always say that this is the best university in the country because that's where I met my wife," said Joe, 93, a retired finance executive. All it took was one look at Millie in history class in 1942 at what was then the Norfolk Division of the College of William & Mary. The next year, he was activated by the Navy. He never graduated, but they married in 1946. Millie, who taught English at Granby High School in Norfolk (Joe's alma mater), died in 2011. Their three children include Dr. Barry Segal '69.

**His sister's advice:** Rose Segal met Millie at a sorority and recommended her to Joe. She said: "She's cute; she's just so much fun; you should date her." He told her: "I don't want to date anyone sight unseen."

**His first view:** Turned out, they were in the same class. But she sat behind him, and he never got a good look. One day, Millie was uncharacteristically late. (She took a ferry from Portsmouth and a trolley to get to school.) The professor called her name as she walked in, Joe turned around, "and after class I asked her to go to a movie with me."

**Other dates:** They'd walk hand in hand on campus, stopping at Bud's to get a sandwich and Coke. In Portsmouth, where Millie lived, she'd ride on his bike, perched on the crossbars. During the Jewish holiday of Passover, when dining options are limited, they got pears at a market and ate them in Joe's car. "And," he was fond of saying later, "we've been a pair ever since."

**Secret to 65 years of wedded bliss:** "Whenever we had a disagreement, I would walk away and go into another room and come back and say, 'I'm sorry,' and she would say, 'I'm sorry,' and we would kiss, and that was it."



## KENYA '08 AND DEMETRIA (JOHNSON) WILLIAMS '08

**Their story:** They met at Webb Center as freshmen. They started going out, but Demetria dropped him "because I was still trying to get numbers" from other women, Kenya said. A tragedy two years after graduation finally brought them together. Kenya: "I was a former athlete, and I always thought I could get any chick I wanted. She made me work for it." Kenya, 34, owns an auto detailing shop, I Shine for You, in Williamsburg. Demetria, 30, is an accounts receivable coordinator at EVMS. They have a daughter, Antonia, 3, and live in Suffolk.

**Graduation day and after:** They met one last time at Webb Center on graduation day and agreed to keep in touch. They talked every week or two. In 2010, Demetria's mother slapped him on the wrist for not visiting Demetria after she underwent oral surgery. He visited the next day, and they started talking almost daily.

**The tragedy and then the concert:** When Kenya's father died in September 2010, he called her for consolation, and they cried together. "It took his death in order for me to live," he said. Later that week, she invited him to a concert with Angie Stone and Maxwell, and "that was it," Kenya said. The lyrics from Stone's song "Maybe" clinched it: "Will we ever know on a maybe?/Sleeping at night with maybe/It's time to be sure." They started seriously dating in November, and they married in 2012.

**Lessons learned:** Kenya: "I had to grow up myself before she was going to be my wife. I started getting more involved in church, hearing and seeing things in the Bible, reading more." Demetria: "You just have to follow your heart and wait until the right time and everyone is sure."



## KYLE '12 AND LINDSAY (CARTWRIGHT) TADURAN '15

**Their story:** Another late-blooming romance. They didn't start dating until 2013, after Kyle graduated. They just got married in September. Kyle, who will turn 27 in December, is an analyst with Booz Allen Hamilton; Lindsay, 24, teaches at a dance studio. They live in Chesapeake.

**Before ODU:** They knew each other from way back. Kyle played baseball with her older brother in Chesapeake. But no fireworks yet.

**At ODU:** When Lindsay started school in 2011, Kyle got interested in her. "I always asked her to hang out with me. Ninety percent of the time, she said no."

**What changed her mind:** Kyle: "In her sophomore year, I had been bothering her enough that her roommate said, 'Why don't you give this guy a shot?' She did, so we're here now."

**Their first date:** The movie "Oz the Great and Powerful" at MacArthur Center in Norfolk. Kyle: "She's a really big 'Wizard of Oz' fan." Unfortunately, according to Lindsay, "it was an awful movie."

**Favorite hangouts:** Lindsay: "Most of the time we went off-campus, but we really enjoyed Del Vecchios."

**What he likes about her:** "She got me to go out to 'real' college parties, albeit after I had graduated, and not just hang with groups of people. Lindsay is really playful and fun and I am not, so she rounds me off really well."

**What she likes about him:** "I think probably how caring he is. Not that I need to be taken care of, but he's always watching out for me, making sure I'm OK."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYLER BRADY PHOTOGRAPHY

# DID YOU MEET YOUR SWEETHEART AT OLD DOMINION?

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH  
US USING #ODULOVESTORY  
OR SEND PHOTOS TO  
SOCIALMEDIA@ODU.EDU.

Check out this on-campus  
proposal at the fountain at  
<http://bit.ly/2eLDgkO>

Go to [www.odu.edu/monarchmag](http://www.odu.edu/monarchmag) to read about  
other couples who met at  
ODU.

Read in the spring 2017 issue about three pairs of Old Dominion athletes, all from the same sport, who later married.



## Record \$35 million gift will create art museum

**O**ld Dominion University has received the largest gift in its history, worth \$35 million, to build an art museum showcasing more than 200 glass sculptures, paintings and other works. The museum, expected to open in 2018, will be across 43rd Street from the Ted Constant Convocation Center. The donation came from Richard Barry, a former rector of Old Dominion's Board of Visitors, and his wife, Carolyn. Barry is a former executive at Landmark Media Enterprises, which publishes *The Virginian-Pilot*, and its predecessor, Landmark Communications. His wife is a docent and former board member at the Chrysler Museum of Art.

"The Barrys' gift allows ODU to become one of Hampton Roads' major cultural destinations," said Old Dominion President John R. Broderick.

The two-story museum will feature about 110 glass sculptures and 70 paintings from the Barrys' collection. It also will have 50 paintings, drawings and prints from the university's collection, including works by former art professors A.B. Jackson and Charles Sibley, as well as revolving exhibitions.

Robert Wojtowicz, a professor of art history who is dean of the university's Graduate School, said the museum will strengthen education, and not just for art majors: "For an engineering or nursing student, it will be a place to get away from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the campus to begin to apply how an artist thinks creatively to their own professional goals."

The Barrys' collection includes a 3-D glass representation of a virus. "It's those kinds of unusual and idiosyncratic pieces that will really resonate strongly with the casual visitor to the museum," Wojtowicz said.

"THE BARRYS' GIFT  
ALLOWS ODU TO  
BECOME ONE OF  
HAMPTON ROADS'  
MAJOR CULTURAL  
DESTINATIONS."

-PRESIDENT JOHN R. BRODERICK



## SEIBLES NAMED VIRGINIA'S POET LAUREATE

Hail Tim Seibles.

The Old Dominion professor of English and creative writing was appointed to the two-year position over the summer. "I was surprised, of course – and thrilled to have such an honor and the opportunity to be an ambassador for poetry throughout the fine state of Virginia," said Seibles, who joined Old Dominion in 1995. "I have always wanted to show people that poetry can have a vital place in their lives. Poems can fuel our hearts, helping us to clarify what we feel, inviting us to imagine more than we've been told about ourselves and the world we live in."

Seibles was a National Book Award finalist in 2012 for "Fast Animal," one of his poetry collections. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center.

Seibles is "a generous mentor to his students and a much loved colleague who deserves all this recognition and more," said Sheri Reynolds, a novelist who is chair of the English department. "I can think of no better poetry ambassador."

See Tim Seibles read one of his poems at [www.odu.edu/monarchmag/seibles](http://www.odu.edu/monarchmag/seibles).

## Website unearths LAMBERT'S POINT HISTORY

Old Dominion University has launched [mappinglambertspoint.org](http://mappinglambertspoint.org), an interactive website to illuminate the history of nearby Lambert's Point. It's one of Norfolk's oldest neighborhoods and among the first where African-Americans could buy homes, said Avi Santo, director of ODU's Institute for the Humanities.



**First Baptist Church of Lambert's Point has been a major institution in the neighborhood since its founding in 1893. The photo shows its previous location on 45th Street and Parker Avenue.**

**Students outside the Smallwood School, an African-American school near where Mills Godwin Jr. Life Sciences Building now stands.**



**Members of the Lambert's Point Nurses' Club in 1952. Early in the 20th century, Lambert's Point housed Tidewater Hospital, where blacks were guaranteed treatment.**

To share your memories of living in Lambert's Point, go to [www.mappinglambertspoint.org](http://www.mappinglambertspoint.org), email [humanities@odu.edu](mailto:humanities@odu.edu) or call 757-683-3719.

# Alumnus dies in attack in Afghanistan

**N**aqib Khpulwak Ahmad (M.A.'12) died this summer in pursuit of his dream to strengthen his native Afghanistan. Naqib, a Fulbright scholar who received his master's degree in international studies at Old Dominion, was one of 16 people – and the only faculty member – killed in a terrorist attack at the American University of Afghanistan.

“I remember having conversations with him after he graduated, saying, ‘Naqib, you know you could try and stay in this country,’” said Regina Karp, director of the Graduate Program in International Studies. “He said, ‘No, I never considered that. I’m going back home, because I am one of the people who is needed.’”

She described him as “one of the



brightest lights of our program.” Matthew Hall, an assistant professor of political science and geography, said Naqib “was just a deeply loved and respected person for very good reason. He was exceptional in every way that

student at ODU who taught with Naqib there, remembered him swarmed by students outside class and playing soccer with them in his free time. “The fact that he chose to work in Afghanistan should tell you that he’s a patriot,” he said.

counts.” Naqib, who also had been a visiting fellow at Stanford University Law School, was a popular faculty member at the Kabul university. Ghulum Sarwar Sultani, a doctoral

## Member of Nobel-winning panel joins faculty



**O**ld Dominion University made a Nobel hire this fall. Sviatoslav Timashev was appointed research professor in the Department of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering. He was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 for devising methods to capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to minimize environmental harm.

Timashev, who is affiliated with the Russian Academy of Sciences and holds dual U.S. and Russian citizenship, will serve as research professor through at least December 2019 and will regularly visit the campus. Even before his appointment, he began co-writing a paper with an ODU student.

Timashev isn't Old Dominion's only connection with the Nobel Prize-winning panel. Oceanographer Eileen Hoffmann also was a member of the panel when it received the prize.

## TWO DEANS STEPPING DOWN

Two deans – **Chris Platsoucas** of the College of Sciences and **Shelley Mishoe** of the College of Health Sciences – will step down next year to return to teaching and research.

Platsoucas is the longest-serving dean at the university, having started in 2007. He launched the Math/Science Resource Center in 2008 (see article on Page 43) to help students having trouble with those subjects.



During his tenure, the number of undergraduate STEM degrees awarded by the college increased 74 percent and the number of undergraduate majors rose 65 percent. The college hired 58 tenure-eligible faculty members, most of whom are supported by grants, and annual research funding grew 40 percent to nearly \$16 million. Platsoucas will leave the dean's position next May.

Mishoe, who will step down in January, became dean in 2010. Under her leadership, the College of Health Sciences began such initiatives as a Ph.D. program in kinesiology, a master's in athletic training, the Center for Global Health and Monarch Physical Therapy. Since 2011, the college increased the level of external grants four-fold to \$8 million a year.



During her tenure, the college also increased student credit hours and exceeded national averages for pass rates on all credentialing exams, with some at 100 percent.

*ODU ranks **NO. 11** in the country for number of bachelor's degrees awarded to African-Americans in engineering related fields.*

–Diverse Issues in Higher Education

## Big impact

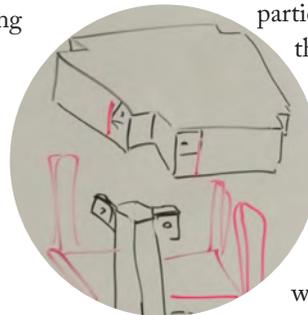
Students build tiny satellite for NASA

**W**hat small object has sides that are just 10 centimeters long and a mass of about 1.5 kilograms but will be a big help to NASA?

A cube-sat, of course.

NASA has entrusted the work of developing one of its cube-sats to about 20 engineering students at Old Dominion.

The mini-satellite will record measurements that will provide NASA and space agencies across the world more insight into the lower atmosphere and space weather, said Robert Ash, a professor and eminent scholar of mechanical and aerospace engineering. Ash is advising the students – or, as he says, “I’m



supposed to keep them from going off-track; they’re supposed to do the rest.”

NASA and the Virginia Space Grant Consortium awarded Old Dominion more than \$62,000 for the work. Adam Horn, one of the participants, realizes how special the experience is: “Not a lot of undergraduates have the opportunity to put together satellites and launch them.”

Students at other universities are also working on cube-sats,

Ash said, but Old Dominion’s appears to be the only one with a drag brake, which will smooth the deceleration of the satellite back to earth. Dmitrie Popescu, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, is the co-adviser.

The satellite is due for delivery to NASA by February 2018.

*Professor Robert Ash with recent graduate Malcom-Scott Edwards*



PHOTO: CHUCK THOMAS

# Tweet On!



Tweets are short and sweet, and the ones mentioning Old Dominion are among the sweetest.

ODU ranked in the top five colleges or universities in the country with the greatest proportion of positive tweets in a recent study by CollegeStats.org. Villanova University outside Philadelphia, which won the NCAA men's basketball championship this year, was No. 1.

ODU topped such schools as Harvard, Wake Forest and the University of California, Berkeley. Dylan Wittkower, an associate professor of philosophy at Old Dominion who studies social media, said the ranking probably attests to the university's multiple partnerships with military, business, local media and other communities.

The study drew more attention – and Twitter action – after it was featured in U.S. News & World Report. By the way, the formal term for the measurement is “highest average Twitter sentiment.” CollegeStats translated that to something a lot less official-sounding – “feelin’ the love.”

*Share your love for ODU by mentioning @ODUnow on Twitter*

## Campus News in Brief

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY OPENED TWO LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITIES** – focusing on cybersecurity and service learning – this semester. The university has 11 living-learning communities, where students with common academic interests live together. Their themes include business, ROTC and health professions.

**XIUSHI YANG**, professor and chairman of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice,



recently won a five-year \$2.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse to study the use of synthetic drugs, such as meth and ecstasy, in urban China. Yang, who will work with researchers from other schools, hopes the results will help reduce the use of drugs and the spread of sexual disease across the world.

**THE UNIVERSITY THIS SUMMER AWARDED ITS FIRST BACHELOR'S DEGREES IN LEADERSHIP.**

The new major, part of the interdisciplinary studies program, is offered by the Colleges of Arts & Letters and Continuing Education & Professional Development. It includes courses in such areas as communication, criminal justice, environmental health, finance and philosophy.

**KENT CARPENTER**, a professor of biological sciences, offered environmental testimony that helped shape a recent ruling that China had violated the rights of the Philippines over disputed islands in the South China Sea.

“The evidence was clear that Chinese fishermen were harvesting threatened and endangered giant clams, corals, sharks, bony fishes and turtles,” Carpenter said. The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands, ruled that China had violated international law.

**JIM KOSNIK**, a professor of music, will offer a “distinguished alumni recital” at the University at Buffalo in March. He will perform the works of such composers as Bach and Adolphus Hailstork, a professor and eminent scholar of music at Old Dominion, on a \$1.5 million Fisk pipe organ.

The so-called similarity-attraction effect – where customers prefer businesses they perceive to be similar to them – doesn't hold for those with tattoos, according to three faculty

members in marketing – **AARON ARNDT, MYRON GLASSMAN AND KIRAN KARANDE.**

“The idea that I have a tattoo and you have a tattoo and therefore I'll make a connection with you as a customer – that rarely holds,” Arndt said. Their research was recently published in the Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services.

## UPDATES

**SARA MAXWELL**, assistant professor of biological sciences (profiled in summer 2016), played a role in President Barack Obama's decision in August to create the world's largest marine protected area. Maxwell wrote a report with the Pew Charitable Trusts

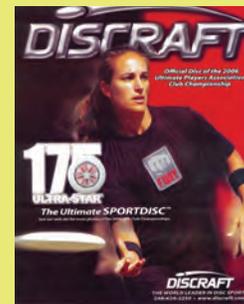


outlining the ecological importance of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in Hawaii.

“This area is particularly critical for seabirds, and I am proud to have even a small role in this historical decision,” said Maxwell, who won a 2016 Sloan Research Fellowship.

Student Veteran House, a concept pioneered by **MICHAEL THOMPSON**, an M.P.A. graduate now pursuing a master's in business administration (profiled in winter 2016), won third place this year in the Enactus National Expo. The idea has been advanced by Enactus, an entrepreneurship club at ODU.

**SAMANTHA SALVIA '96**, Old Dominion's only Rhodes Scholar (profiled in summer 2016), still has the touch in Ultimate Frisbee. She played on Team USA's women's masters division team, which won the gold in the world championships in England over the

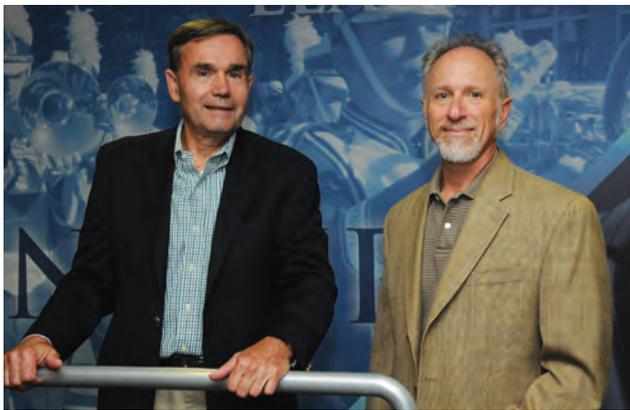


summer. Salvia was also profiled by CBS Sports at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISC2Kag4qlc&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISC2Kag4qlc&feature=youtu.be)

# College counseling helps grades, too, research shows

By Philip Walzer

As the university's counseling center approaches its 40th anniversary, Old Dominion researchers, sifting through the center's records, have uncovered new evidence of the benefits of counseling. Previous national studies established the positive effects of counseling on students' mental health, said Alan "Woody" Schwitzer, a professor of counseling. But until now, none had examined grades and graduation rates to analyze the aca-



Dana Burnett and Alan "Woody" Schwitzer

demically aftereffects of counseling.

Based on anonymous records of nearly 1,150 ODU students over eight years, the researchers found that those who followed through with treatment ended up with higher GPAs and were more likely to graduate than those who didn't.

Another researcher, Dana Burnett, said the results show that counseling centers provide a valuable "return on investment," both for colleges and universities and for the students who use them. That could persuade more students to get the help that they need.

For Burnett, the findings also confirm the wisdom of a decision nearly 40 years ago: He helped

launch ODU's counseling center in 1977, when he was the university's dean of student affairs.

Schwitzer and Burnett worked with three doctoral students in higher education and counseling: Catherine Moss, now coordinator of sophomore success and continuance at Old Dominion; Dan St. John, assistant director for academic development at Eastern Virginia Medical School, and Caroline Bertolet, coordinator of the coaching program for residents at EVMS.

Their research also found that more students are going to counseling now.

Burnett, one of the longest-serving vice presidents in Old Dominion's history, forged a successful second act as a professor. He was vice president, dean of student affairs or both from 1974 to 2006. For the past decade, Burnett served as professor of practice in higher education, teaching and conducting research.

The transition was seamless for Burnett, who taught one class a semester during most of his time as an administrator. "I always loved working with students," he said.

And it made sense to explore the center's records: "I knew we had the data. I thought we ought to do something with it."

Burnett, 73, kayaks almost every day on the Rappahannock River near his house in Urbanna. The rest of his routine changed in September. He retired after a 44-year career at ODU.

But his research on counseling continues. Burnett and Schwitzer said they have submitted several papers and plan to collaborate on a book elaborating on their research.

*Philip Walzer is Monarch magazine and university editor. In an article in The Virginian-Pilot in 2006, he described Dana Burnett as the "Dick Clark of local college administrators."*

TOPS IN THE  
COUNTRY

Old Dominion's department of counseling and human services has the best master's program in the nation, the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision said this year.

# Black Elk: A medicine man who turned to Catholicism



PHOTO: DAVID HOLLINGSWORTH

*Joe Jackson, a local author of seven works of nonfiction and a novel, joined Old Dominion this semester as the Mina Hohenberg Darden Chair in Creative Writing. His new book, "Black Elk: The Life of an American Visionary," recounts the life of perhaps the most famous Native American medicine man in the 20th century. In a recent interview, Jackson spoke about Black Elk's surprising conversion to Catholicism and the common theme of his spiritual pursuits.*



**Q** Who was Black Elk? What drew you to him?

Black Elk was probably most famous for a long oral interview published as "Black Elk Speaks" in 1932.

**A** He was a Sioux medicine man. When he was 12 years old, he was involved in the Custer fight, and he was in Wounded Knee. The book pretty much disappeared in America, but it made a big splash in Europe because Carl Jung fell in love with it. And then, in the 1960s and '70s, the coun-

terculture embraced it, and it became rather famous. Black Elk has been called the only authentic American holy man during the 20th century, and the Catholic Church is now thinking of making him a saint.

**Q** How is Black Elk viewed today by Native Americans?

**A** I think they embrace him. First he was a traditional medicine man. Then in 1904 he became Catholic, and he supposedly converted 400 Native Americans to Catholicism. When "Black Elk Speaks" saw its resurgence in the '60s and '70s, there was this whole question of: Who was he? Was he a traditional medicine man? Was he a Catholic? Was he somewhere in between? But now he's pretty much embraced because he said early on that religion is the heart of Indian identity.

**Q** Why did he convert to Catholicism?

**A** That's the big mystery. But if you look closely at his entire life, you can glimpse a possible explanation. He'd been through a number of tragedies, and many members of his family had died. He fought at Wounded Knee and saw the 7th Cavalry massacre women and children there. He became an ardent lay preacher for the Catholics for about 15, 20 years. He was a man on fire, and he thought Catholicism would save his people, but they continued to die. So around 1930 or so, he was 60, he was sick, his friends were dying around him and he thought the only way to save his people was to preserve his vision somehow. He starts performing the old dances again. He's gone back to the old ways, but he's still a Catholic.

**Q** Did researching Black Elk's life change your own relationship with religion?

**A** I was raised Southern Baptist, and I have members of my extended family who talk in tongues. For me, being a failed Baptist, I never really thought about the Southern Baptist religion in terms of my identity. But you can see for Black Elk – and then if you extend that to so many other people I've known – how much religion makes them who they are.

*For more on faculty books, go to [www.odu.edu/monarchmag](http://www.odu.edu/monarchmag)*



## Shakespeare: He had mixed views of blacks

The clash of emotions in his work makes the Bard still relevant, says Imtiaz Habib, a professor of English

### TELL ME ONE THING MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT SHAKESPEARE THAT THEY SHOULD KNOW

Shakespeare is an ordinary person. He is the son of a glover, a person who makes and whitens gloves, in Stratford. He is a sober, careful man who manages to pull off a successful career in the theater industry, whereas most of his colleagues didn't. When we say that he wrote until 1610 what we mean is that his name begins to fade in notices of the theater from around that time. He died in 1616.

### WHY IS HE RELEVANT IN 2016?

Shakespeare has become a kind of icon of modern sensibility. The attitude that runs through his works is: We are curious, we are interested, we believe, but we also ask questions. The emotions in his sonnets, the struggle within the self between the extremities – at once generous and passionate, and bigoted and venal – it is this that speaks most directly to our world.

### WHAT ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES TO GET STUDENTS INTERESTED IN SHAKESPEARE?

I tell them that it will not do for us to study only printed marks on a page because those printed marks were created by human beings living in a particular world. Unless we understand that world, these printed marks mean nothing. So, for example, "The Rape of Lucrece" is a powerful, powerful poem. Why would he pick a topic like that? Could it be that this is the beginning of concern about the sexual violence that is the norm for this moment?

### WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER ABOUT BLACKS IN ENGLAND DURING SHAKESPEARE'S TIME?

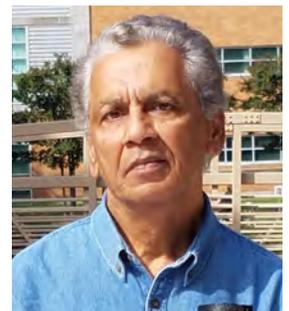
I found that by the 1550s onward, there's a steady trickle of black people into London. They appear in all dimensions and all levels of society. It is impossible to say that Shakespeare and his colleagues would not have known them in their daily life.

### SHOULD THIS CHANGE OUR VIEW OF SHAKESPEARE AND HIS WRITING?

Of course. It is not as sanitized and enclosed as we had thought. It is far more paradigm-breaking. In "Othello," he has a black man in a position of authority. But this man is brought down, and what comes through is that he is bestial to the core. Shakespeare is struggling to talk about the humanity of the black man, but in the end Shakespeare is a creature of his moment.

### IF SOMEONE WERE TO READ ONE OF HIS PLAYS, WHICH WOULD YOU SUGGEST?

I would suggest – and this sounds like a boring, conventional choice – "Hamlet." Even today, it's fascinating in its startling correspondences with modern sensibility – what does Hamlet's life come to and what does it mean?



**Imtiaz Habib** this year organized "Shakespeare 400 Years After," a multimedia festival honoring the 400th anniversary of the Bard's death. A map based on Habib's research on black life in London appears on the cover of the current issue of Shakespeare Quarterly. He delivered the keynote speech on "Bengal in Shakespeare's India" at a recent conference in Bangladesh.

# Student, prof hit it off in physics



What would happen if a basketball collided with a bunch of ping-pong balls? Take that image down to a subatomic level, and you'll get a feel for the research that Erik Johnson is conducting. He's one of the first grant recipients in the university's new Program for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, or PURS.

Johnson is studying the scattering of photons (the mini-ping-pong balls) that collide with electrons during X-rays. Narrowing their path could sharpen the images. "It's the difference between an X-ray seeing bones or making somebody sick," he said. The research, he said, also may allow doctors one day to watch cancerous protons grow in real time.

His adviser, Balša Terzić, an assistant professor of physics, said Johnson's work will propel his own research for NASA on remote sensing of particles.

Johnson won a \$10,000 PURS grant in 2015-16, when he was a senior. Now a doctoral student in physics, he has continued the work with a \$10,000 award from the Virginia Space Grant Consortium. A paper co-written by Johnson, Terzić and others was just published in a physics journal.

## On the beauty of physics

**JOHNSON:** "No other field has this sense of 'This is how and why things are.' It's beautiful to see how the universe works."

**TERZIĆ:** "It's the honesty of it. There's no talking your way out of stuff. There's no human element, which can be so finicky and unpredictable."

## What they think of each other

**JOHNSON:** "It's really been a two-way street. I've never felt as appreciated. If I have a contribution, Dr. Terzić and Dr. (Geoff) Krafft (a Jefferson Lab professor) are definitely willing to hear what I have to say."

**TERZIĆ:** "I have had an excellent experience with our undergraduates here. Erik is the latest example. He has done an outstanding job with us, and he is patient enough to put up with me."

## Their geographic journeys

**JOHNSON** was born in a trailer in Virginia Beach. After he graduated from high school, he joined the Air Force in 2000. He helped build hangars in Iraq and transform an explosives range into a military base in two weeks in Afghanistan.

**TERZIĆ** was born in Montenegro. At 17, he went to rural Ohio for a high-school exchange program. He stayed in the United States to escape the troubles in the Balkans.

## Their academic wanderings

**JOHNSON** was drawn to several subjects, but as his wife noted, "my physics ramblings were the most animated." He plans to be a physics professor: "It's very exciting to sit around with brilliant people, trying to solve problems."

**TERZIĆ** also has a multidisciplinary bent, with degrees in math and computer science. He worked primarily at Jefferson Lab for five years, but switched full-time to ODU in 2014 to spend more time with students like Johnson.



PHOTO: CHUCK THOMAS

*Kyle Lewis praised his tutor at the Math and Science Resource Center.*

## Students helping students in math and science

Who is the “best tutor ever”? For Kyle Lewis, the answer’s easy: Dejah Singh. “She definitely made me understand the content a lot better,” Lewis said a few days before the end of the spring semester.

They met at the College of Sciences’ Math & Science Resource Center last fall when Lewis, now a sophomore, was struggling with college algebra. Singh, who graduated in the spring with a degree in mechanical engineering, helped Lewis raise his grade from a C to a B.

He went back to her in the spring for help with business calculus, and again got a boost in his grades.

At the Math & Science Resource Center, launched in 2008, honors and

upper-level students help their fellow students get a better handle on math, chemistry and psychology. In some classes, the pass rates for students who receive that help are 40 percent higher than for those who don’t.

Chris Platsoucas, dean of the College of Sciences, modeled the program on one he started at Temple University in Philadelphia, which he described as “highly effective.” “The MSRC has clearly impacted retention and student success,” Platsoucas said.

The center provides two types of help: Students receive one-on-one tutoring from peers. The service is available, either by appointment or walk-in, on weekdays and expands to Sundays before finals. In addition, tutors offer “supplemental instruction,” weekly hourlong review sessions for groups. Those sessions get more

intensive before exams.

Students who take advantage of both options get the most bounce in their grades, Platsoucas said. This semester, the university increased the number of supplemental instruction sessions and put some online.

The center operates in two locations: Math and psychology help is in Room 1312 of Perry Library, and chemistry tutoring is in Room 146 of the Oceanography and Physical Sciences Building.

The experience doesn’t help just the students being tutored, said Terri Mathews, associate dean of the College of Sciences, who oversees the center. The tutors, who are paid, reinforce their foundation in math or chemistry just in time for the MCAT or other graduate-school exams.

Students form strong connections. At an end-of-school-year social in the spring, “the students did not want to leave,” said Andrea Stephen, who is the manager of the center. “They stayed for several hours.”

Sean Catley, a recent graduate in chemistry and biochemistry, tutored Jason Eusebio, a recent graduate in environmental health. Thanks to Catley, “I wasn’t afraid of any class that came in front of me,” said Eusebio, who recently was commissioned as a Naval environmental health officer in San Diego, Calif.

Catley said the benefits go beyond chemistry: “You’re setting them up for their life – study skills, discipline, thinking outside the box.” And the help is appreciated.

Singh, who tutored Lewis, said: “I received a good number of emails saying, ‘I passed because of you.’ They always made me cry.”

*For more information on the Math & Science Resource Center, email [msrc@odu.edu](mailto:msrc@odu.edu), call 683-6776 or go to [www.odu.edu/sci/msrc](http://www.odu.edu/sci/msrc).*

# Her purses are stylish, inexpensive and eco-friendly

2 Pink Peas



**A**n embarrassing accident on the roller-skating rink in middle school gave Sophia O’Neal her business brainstorm. Her jeans split during one of her maneuvers. She escaped total mortification by tying a sweater around her waist. But O’Neal couldn’t bear to toss the jeans. They were new and dazzled with silvery sparkles.

So she decided to make a ruffled purse out of the remnants.

This year, O’Neal, an 18-year-old sophomore from Virginia Beach, started making a lot more purses – and selling them. Her business, 2 Pink Peas, aims to provide accessories that are “fashionable, affordable and eco-friendly.” They’re also “quirky and fun,” O’Neal said.

Her purses have jaunty floral designs in styles such as “Mayan chocolate” and “luau tropical.” They are made of recycled upholstery fabric, and they cost \$17 to \$20.

The business is named in recognition of her sister, Olivia, who helped O’Neal launch it. Their mother calls them “two peas in a pod,” and her sister’s favorite color is pink.

It’s not O’Neal’s first venture. She created homemade bookmarks when she was 6.

“Sophia is the epitome of an entrepreneurial leader,” said Nancy

Grden, the executive director of the Strome Entrepreneurial Center. “She was an immediate visitor to the center when she began her freshman year. I was struck by her energy and engagement then, and she has continued to be a model for others looking for inspiration and example, ‘paying it forward.’”

O’Neal has a small pink office in the center with a sewing machine, which she uses to make her purses. She also serves as a student assistant, sharing advice with other would-be entrepreneurs and planning events for the Strome center.

O’Neal said her interactions at the center “have proved to me that it’s possible to start a company and still be a student.”

She’s not taking the easy academic route.

O’Neal is planning a double major, in biology and international business. Maybe she’ll end up a consultant to a biomedical or pharmaceutical startup.

But – sounding characteristically older than her teenage years – she cautioned: “I try not to speculate too much.”



For more information about O’Neal’s products, visit <http://www.2pinkpeas.com>.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILLIP MARTIN



## Navy vet rekindles acting career

By Eric Butterman



Read more about Phillip Martin at [www.odu.edu/monarchmag/martin](http://www.odu.edu/monarchmag/martin)

Phillip Martin made his professional acting debut in 1983 in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival at the age of 8. He played Tommy, the high-spirited kid in Eugene O'Neill's "Ah, Wilderness!"

Far from intimidating him, that challenge whetted his interest in an acting career. Yet he took an intermission from pursuing his dream. A long intermission.

More than 30 years later, after a 20-year career in the Navy, he's back on track as a junior majoring in communication and theatre arts at Old Dominion.

"I decided to go into the Navy to get money for college," Martin says. "It was supposed to be just a six-year commitment and then I'd go to college with the GI Bill. But

one thing led to another."

He served as a fire controlman and saw much of the world, the island of Malta among his favorite spots. "After so much adventure, I retired at E-6 (first class petty officer), and then, well, it was time to figure out the next step."

That turned out to be Tidewater Community College. In 2014, he enrolled at ODU.

"I think it's a little less daunting now than it would have been when I was younger," Martin, 41, says. "There can be a lot of homework and sometimes you hear a few students grumble about it a bit. But I just sit there and think, 'Well, I'm not out at sea. I'm not having to be away from my family for months at a time.'"

He has relished acting in Old Dominion productions, including Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus."

"I actually got to play the title character. Not that it was inevitable, but he was an older character. Age helps me out again!"

Jenifer Alonzo, an associate professor of communication and theatre arts, describes Martin as an "ideal student."

He's "excited about new skills and knowledge, the ability to integrate what he learns into his previous experience, and has the maturity to support younger students as they find their way," Alonzo says.

Martin, who lives in Virginia Beach, says his family is behind him. His youngest son, Jonas, 12, even helps him learn his lines. "He gets really excited about it," Martin says. "We get into the mindset of a character. He doesn't want to be an actor at this point, but he has a good time working with me."

Martin hopes to play the real-life role of college graduate next year. After that, he wants to appear as a character actor on TV and in the movies. Since he returned to school, he's landed a few appearances in TV series, including Discovery's "Happily Never After."

"It was a long road back," he says, "but I'm learning so much, and you feel like you're a part of another family through class, through shows. And this really is a situation where I'm doing something for my soul as much as my mind."

*Eric Butterman has written for more than 50 publications. His favorite acting performance? Probably James Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life."*



# What Freshmen THINK

Old Dominion's freshmen are more inquisitive about the world and more altruistic than their peers nationwide, according to a national survey. They're also more religious and a bit less liberal.

ODU NATIONAL



Want to improve their understanding of other countries and cultures

69% 59%



Identified as agnostic, atheist or not affiliated with any religion

24% 30%



Considered graduates' admission to top graduate/professional schools as factor in selecting ODU

68% 38%



Identify as liberal or far left

32% 34%



Utilize merit-based grants or scholarships

66% 52%



Feel it's important to help others in difficulty

78% 15%

Source: CIRP Freshman Survey by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute Note: About 600 Old Dominion freshmen took the survey in the fall of 2015.

## TJ RICKS

TJ Ricks, a senior linebacker from Hampton, set an ODU record and led Conference USA in tackles last year, with 123. Not bad for a former walk-on. “He’s a remarkable success story,” head coach Bobby Wilder says. “He’s just worked so hard. He’s an every-down linebacker.”

Ricks was named to the preseason All-Conference USA football team.



PHOTO: ROBERTO WESTBROOK



PHOTO: JIM MORRISON

## Roughhousing with the boys prepared Hind for women's soccer

By Jim Morrison

**A**ngie Hind lost count of how many times she changed in a restroom or a referee's room as a young girl playing soccer on boys' teams in Kilmarnock, Scotland. "I think I was 11 before I knew there was another female in the world who played soccer," says Hind, 44, Old Dominion's women's soccer coach since 2014. "I thought it was just me and the boys."

She credits roughhousing with the boys for making her tough and putting her on a path to a slot on the Scottish

national team and a long career playing in the Scottish League.

Hind originally left her homeland in 2003 for Dartmouth College, first as an assistant and then for six seasons as head coach, compiling a 54-38-8 record. She returned home in 2010 as assistant coach of the Scottish national team.

But she got to work with the players only four days a month. Plus, the opportunities for women remain limited in Scotland, where it's a man's world.

When she heard about the Old Dominion job, she jumped.

"There are very few places in the world where you can coach in a full-time capacity if you're a female," Hind says. "And the U.S. college system is a fantastic environment to develop players. I really missed that."

Coming to ODU to rebuild a program appealed to her. "Maybe it's the Scottishness in me, being the underdog."

Hind also found the culture here appealing. "This nation is far more positive in outlook than what the Scottish people are," she says. "We tend to be a bit more pessimistic, a bit more sarcastic. That's why we have such a sense of humor. Here, everyone is so positive. You embrace that as a coach. You realize how important that is in building confidence."

Her teams at ODU have shown steady improvement. Four of the seven recruits this year are homegrown, including Alex Davidson, a forward from Cox High School in Virginia Beach who was named a high school All-American.

"Everything changed completely, all for the better," when Hind arrived, says Jackie Stroud, now a redshirt junior center back defender. "I don't think I've ever had a coach that knows the game as well as she does."

Hind's aggressive style of play means the team goes fully on the attack when it gains possession, capitalizing on the weaknesses players have studied on tape.

"She really analyzes who we're playing," Stroud says. "She really knows what will benefit us based on our personnel."

Hind's goal: "To make sure people see ODU as one of the programs in the country that's a genuine contender. There are lots of good teams in Virginia. We want to be one of the best."

One thing she won't let her players forget: how fortunate they are to be women playing soccer in the United States.

*Jim Morrison is a freelance writer in Norfolk who has written for The New York Times, Smithsonian and other publications. After watching his daughter play soccer for a dozen years, he finds the game tough but beautiful.*

# Olympic announcer got names right and kept his emotions in control

By Jason Bryant '04

In the last 20 years, I've announced wrestling tournaments at hundreds of high schools, wrestling duals at the ODU Fieldhouse and Constant Center, national championships at Madison Square Garden and matches in the sand at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront.

There was even an ODU national championship in field hockey at Foreman Field in 2000.

In August, I added the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to my announcing resume.

My role, and I did choose to accept it, was to serve as an English-language public address announcer for the eight days of wrestling competition in Carioca Arena 2.

The payoff: Being part of the soundtrack for 18 athletes from around the world whose Olympic dreams came true.

One of my major responsibilities was getting the names of the athletes right. No problem there. My co-announcer, Virginia Beach resident Ken Berger, and I had researched the pronunciations of the names of wrestlers from around the world last year, when we were at the World Championships. I made up quick reference sheets, two weight classes per page.

I also had to make sure I got the names of the countries right. Saying "North Korea" is a no-no. You say the "Democratic People's Republic of Korea." Same with Iran. It's the "Islamic Republic of Iran."

For our Olympic-issued "uniforms," we were given two pairs of pants and three polo shirts for eight days. I regularly did laundry in my sink.

We logged a lot of miles in those uniforms. Getting to the venue each day from our hotel in Copacabana was a task. Some days it took two trains and a bus; others, it was a 45-minute taxi ride and a 1-mile walk once we got into Olympic Park.

Rio itself was fantastic, contrary to media reports. The corner cafes featured some of the best international cuisine I've had, and I've been to three former Soviet republics and five continents. The beer selection was broad and much more diverse than back in the day at Batterson's. I even got the opportunity to photo-bomb Ryan Seacrest on "Olympic Late Night."



PHOTO: LARRY SLATER

One of the biggest challenges for me was keeping my emotions in check.

Covering wrestling for so long has enabled me to develop hundreds of relationships. I probably know our American wrestlers better than journalists who cover the NBA know basketball players.

We're friends, so when they compete, I can't help but pull for them. But I don't visibly cheer. Root for them in your mind; don't visibly show any favoritism. That's probably why my feet bounced incessantly under the table – no one could see them!

It was hard, though, to keep my composure when Helen Maroulis defeated Japan's Saori Yoshida to become the first American woman to win a wrestling gold. My throat got tight, my jaw quivered and my eyes welled.

*Jason Bryant '04, a former editor-in-chief of the Mace & Crown and sports director at WODU, owns and operates Mat Talk Online (mattalkonline.com), a company that produces and distributes podcasts and other media and digital publications. He and his wife, Abby, live in New Brighton, Minn., and have two daughters, Lucy London, 4, and Ruby Rio, who was born in July.*



## Alum, 47, gets into College World Series

By Philip Walzer

**J**eff Doy '92 was in the 2016 College World Series. Amazing at his age? Not really. But still impressive. The NCAA chose Doy to be one of eight umpires – and the first ever from Virginia – officiating at the college series. Score it an emotional grand slam for the 47-year-old.

“I can honestly say, it was the best two weeks of my life,” said Doy, an account executive for O'Brien et al. Advertising in Virginia Beach. “You can't get any higher in amateur baseball than the College World Series, so I reached the pinnacle.”

A baseball player through high school, Doy ached to get back to the game after he received his business degree from Old Dominion. His grandfather, who had played minor league ball for the Pittsburgh Pirates, suggested he try umpiring. So Doy spent a couple thousand dollars to attend a five-week umpiring school in Florida in 1993.

He started locally at the high school level and graduated to collegiate ball in 1996. His first

college game was Old Dominion vs. Rutgers.

Doy now umpires in four conferences – the AAC, Big Ten, Conference USA and Colonial. He officiates at about 50 games per year, usually on weekends, and travels to such states as Florida, Ohio and Mississippi. He's also filled in as an ump for the AAA Norfolk Tides.

“My family makes a lot of sacrifices,” said Doy, who had to miss several of his sons' baseball games.

What makes him a top umpire? “I'm pretty good at calling balls and strikes. When coaches see me out there, they know I'll work hard and give them an honest game.”

When Doy got the call in May that he'd be going to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., he cried. “I literally sat there at my desk for the next two hours and didn't know what to do.”

Doy umpired 10 games in 13 days at the series in June. “I thought I performed pretty well,” he said. “I didn't miss any plays except one.” That one, unfortunately, got a bit of attention.

Umping at first base, Doy watched a fly ball hit down the right field line by a player from Coastal Carolina, which eventually won the national title. He called it foul. But after the first video review in College World Series history, the call was overturned and the batter was awarded a double.

For at least the next two innings, he could hardly think of anything else. “It plays mind games with you,” Doy said. Later, his supervisors told him the play wouldn't affect his reputation and urged him to shake it off. He did.

“He's what the NCAA wants,” said Chris Coskey, an umpire from Springfield, Mo., who worked with Doy in Omaha and has known him for a decade. “He's a good guy; he's a calming guy. He doesn't have an ego. He does a good job. He's willing to learn and get better. He doesn't think he knows it all.”

Doy, however, won't be back in Omaha until at least 2019. Umpires must sit out two years before they can return to the

College World Series.

Umpiring might seem worlds removed from advertising, but Doy said it provides carry-over benefits for work and home.

“When things aren't going well, you have to put on your game face. In baseball, it's all about the facts. Don't put emotions into the discussion. Keep it relevant to the topic and try not to blow off-course.”



*Philip Walzer is editor of Monarch magazine. His older son holds fond memories of umpiring at the former Naval Base Little League in Norfolk.*

# From Athletic Director Wood Selig

## Four projects that will improve life for student-athletes and fans

**WALKING AROUND CAMPUS** at Old Dominion, one can't help but marvel at the amount of construction that's recently been, or about to be, completed. Among the many projects are facilities designed to improve the experience of the student-athlete.

Adjacent to the Ted Constant Center is the state-of-the-art Bennett and Blanche Mitchum Basketball Performance Center. This privately funded \$8.4 million project will provide top-of-the-line training facilities for the men's and women's basketball

moderate hundreds of Monarch fans this spring.

Looking ahead, the University Board of Visitors has voted to allocate \$55 million to the Phase 1 rebirth of Foreman Field at S.B. Ballard Stadium. The goal is to enhance the game day experience for everyone involved with the football program: players, students and all ODU fans.

Monarch fans have become accustomed to state-of-the-art facilities, and as we continue to witness, prospective student-athletes "buy with their eyes." So

these major projects should go a long way in assisting our coaches and staff in attracting the most talented recruits. The latest upgrades are proof of the University's commitment to Monarch and Lady Monarch student-athletes.



*Mitchum Basketball Performance Center*



*Foreman Field at S.B. Ballard Stadium*

programs. It's scheduled to open during the 2016-17 season.

The L.R. Hill Sports Complex is undergoing a \$4 million upgrade, which includes a new 17,000-square-foot weight room, expanded locker rooms, additional offices and academic areas, as well as a new player lounge. The field hockey/lacrosse playing surface has been replaced with a \$1 million Astroturf synthetic field just in time for us to host the 2016 NCAA Field Hockey Final Four.

At the Bud Metheny Baseball Complex, a new fan-friendly, privately funded party deck, Rally Alley, is under construction along the right field line. It should accom-



PHOTO: ODU SPORTS INFORMATION

## From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Monarchs:

I am very excited to start my first term as the president of your Alumni Association. I have been involved with ODU for over 25 years as a student, volunteer and alum. From helping students prepare for their future to supporting the local community, ODU continues to make me proud to call myself a Monarch!

As your president, I am looking forward to continuing the great work of the board, which includes growing the newly created Legacy scholarship. This schol-



arship was designed to help alumni prepare their children to become future Monarchs. It is my hope we can make this scholarship available to more students every year.

The Alumni Association sponsors programs designed to connect alumni with current students in various colleges, including engineering, health sciences, education, business, arts and letters, and the sciences. These programs are a great way for you to give

back to the school while helping students gain a better understanding of the career paths they have chosen.

The Alumni Association is an excellent resource for all alumni, and one of my main goals as your president is to expand the level of engagement opportunities. These events are an outstanding way to network, connect with friends and future friends, meet potential clients or a potential employer, and just have a great time.

Our alumni relations team has some great new and fun opportunities, including the Alumni Travel Program (what a great way to visit Cuba or Spain – with a fellow Monarch!). Other events include beer, bourbon and wine tastings, golf outings, career dinner and discussion programs, and professional and ODU athletic activities.

I hope to see you at one of the alumni events, basketball games or the many other activities the Alumni Association has put together. Let us know how your Alumni Association can help you stay engaged and connected with your alma mater. Go Monarchs!

*Sincerely yours,*  
*John Duy '92 (M.B.A. '99)*

By Janet Molinaro (M.A. '14)

### 1960s

**Ruthann Fox-Hines '60** is a licensed counseling psychologist, life coach and author of "Healing the Wound: Recovering from Loss." She earned her master's and doctoral degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill and is based in Columbia, S.C.

**Susan Boze '69**, faculty liaison in distance learning at Old Dominion, retired in June with 30 years' service at the university.

### 1970s

**Richard A. Gray '73**, a partner with Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP in Northern Virginia and



Washington, D.C., was installed in July as the 2016-17 president of the Fairfax Bar Association. A divorce and family law attorney, Gray has earned recognition for both his professional and public service.

**Deborah DiCroce '74 (M.A. '75)**, president and CEO of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, was named to the Inside Business 2016 Power List of 25 civic and business leaders. DiCroce was the highly respected president of Tidewater Community College when she began the "second act" in her career in March 2012.

**Cliff Page '74** threw his hat into the Portsmouth mayor's race this year. The sculptor was one of six candidates seeking the top job in the city. Among Page's competitors was Kenny Wright '91, Portsmouth's mayor since November 2010.

**Mary Ann Bowen '77** retired in June as principal of Taylor Elementary School after 40 years in Norfolk Public Schools. "I believe (teaching) was the most awesome responsibility that I ever had," she said. "I honestly feel that education is the great equalizer."

**Chuck Harrison '77** has added a workbook to accompany his book "What Happened to Our Church – And Where Do We Go From Here?" published last year to help churches reimagine themselves for the future (Clear Vision Publishing). He is director of the Peninsula Baptist Association.

**Andrea Kilmer '78** was named to the Inside Business 2016 Power List of 25 civic and business leaders. Kilmer, an accountant, is president and CEO of The ESG Cos. in Virginia Beach.

**Mary Maniscalco-Theberge '78**, a surgeon and retired U.S. Army colonel in Reston, Va., was honored in October as the first recipient of an American College of Surgeons award, the Mary Edwards Walker Inspiring Women in Surgery Award. Dr. Walker was a Civil War surgeon and the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor.



## 1980s

**Kenneth A. Samet '80**, CEO and president of MedStar Health Inc., a \$4.6 billion nonprofit health system serving Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md., was to be inducted into the 2016 Washington Business Hall of Fame at a Nov. 30 gala to benefit Junior Achievement of Greater Washington.

**Barry Graham '82 (M.S. '89, Ph.D. '01)** had barely packed up his classroom after retiring as a civics teacher at Kempsville High School in Virginia Beach when WHRV 89.5 FM asked him to fill a full-time slot as a midday announcer. Graham says, "I began my radio career just across the WHRO parking lot – in Rogers East on WODU!" He has worked part time at WHRV as a producer and announcer since his ODU days.

**Randy R. Keaton '82** was named county administrator for Isle of Wight County, effective Sept. 1. Keaton has 33 years of public service in county government and regional planning. He was deputy executive director of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission from 2013 until he took the new job.

By day, **Charles Meads Jr. '82** works at the iconic Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla. In his off hours, Meads is an author. His first book was about numerology. He is now writing a second book and teaching a workshop on basic Kabbalah, a form of Jewish mysticism.

**Richard A. McGrath '83**, a longtime volunteer with Chartway Federal Credit Union, was appointed to its board of directors in June. McGrath is the founder and chief executive officer of Dominion Insurance Group Inc.

**Phyllis Slachter '83**, who teaches marketing at Hopewell (Va.) High School, was named

## Her steady climb to surgical assisting

**Kenita Jackson '12** remembers the confidence booster she received from Ralph Stevens after she made an A in his developmental biology class.

"He said: 'If you can do this, you can do medical school.'"

No surprise, then, that Jackson, 36, went on to receive a master's degree in surgical assisting this year from Eastern Virginia Medical School. What might surprise those who don't know her is her steadfast journey from a childhood in public housing in Norfolk, where she begged neighbors for food and mourned the killings of friends.

"When teenage girls get killed, it becomes real," Jackson said.

Another challenge: She gave birth to her son Keontae Jackson when she was a high school junior. "It motivated me even more," she said. "I knew I didn't want that life for him." Keontae, 18, just began classes at Tidewater Community College.

That's where she enrolled in 1999, going part time while she worked, mostly cutting hair. Jackson graduated in 2007 and started at ODU the next year. She juggled studying, working and caring for her second son, King Stafford. She received her bachelor's degree in biology in 2012.

Two years later, she was admitted to the competitive surgical-assisting master's program at EVMS, where she received a full scholarship. Jackson works as a surgical assistant at Sentara Princess Anne Hospital in Virginia Beach. She talks matter-of-factly about holding a gallbladder or opening an abdomen: "The first time I see it, it's gross. Then I can see it 100 times, and I'm OK."

She also started a program called FOCUS, Future Overcomers Uprising to Success, to introduce students from public housing to careers in health care. "You'll face obstacles, but you've got to find a way to hurdle over them," she says. "You've got to have that light in your heart, even if you can't see it in your eyes."

*To see more about Kenita Jackson, go to [blogs.evms.edu/MyStory/kenita-jackson/](https://blogs.evms.edu/MyStory/kenita-jackson/)*

—Philip Walzer



*Kenita Jackson '12 with her younger son, King Stafford*

PHOTO: EVMS



## Engineer becomes foundation's youngest philanthropist

Old Dominion University doesn't offer a philanthropy degree. Otherwise, **Matt Elliott (M.S. '16)** would be tops in his class.

Elliott, 27, who received a master's degree this year in civil and environmental engineering, is the youngest philanthropist to endow a scholarship with the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.

He helped establish the Dean-Callahan Scholarship Fund for Norfolk Public Schools athletes – with a preference for swimmers – and has supported it with about \$84,000 from three fundraisers.

A former Maury High School swimmer, Elliott created the fund to honor two younger Maury swimmers, Carlton Dean and Joey Callahan, who died a few years ago. The first scholarship was awarded this year.

Elliott had already been thinking about ways to help others: He had benefited from a foundation scholarship to study biology at Virginia Military Institute. Elliott and friends brainstormed an annual summer event – including swimming, volleyball, basketball, barbecue and an auction – at the Mallory Country Club in Norfolk.

"It is impressive that a former scholarship recipient decided at such a young age to pay it forward by starting a permanent scholarship," said Deborah DiCroce, the president and CEO of the community foundation.

Elliott attributed his success to a corps of volunteers and members of the Dean and Callahan families. Whether it's charity or schoolwork, he loves turning his ideas into reality. For example, he combined internship work at the Hampton Roads Sanitation District with research at Old Dominion on converting biological waste to energy.

Elliott maintained a family tradition at ODU: His father, Mark, used to teach biochemistry here.

–*Michael Knepler*

Teacher of the Year for the division in May. She began her career in business where she had an epiphany and switched into teaching.

**Albert J. Di Rienzo '84** in April became executive vice president of research and development and chief innovation officer for Voyce, a subsidiary of Intersections Inc., based in Chantilly, Va. His primary project is collaborating with biomedical engineers and veterinary experts to enhance remote health monitoring systems for pets.



**Sandra Olanitori (M.S. '85)**, an academic adviser and faculty member in the Norfolk State University Department of Nursing and Allied Health, received the Daisy Faculty Award at the Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority's Northeast regional conference in April. The national award recognizes nursing faculty's commitment and inspirational influence on student nurses.

**Shawn Akard '89** was honored by the American Foreign Service Association with its Avis Bohlen Award in June at the U.S. State Department. Akard was commended for creating and implementing programs to help find work for family members of Foreign Service employees at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan.

### 1990s

**Kenneth E. Ampy '90**, of Midlothian, Va., co-founder and CEO of Astyra Corp., has been appointed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe to the board of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Ampy and his former college roommate, Samuel Young, created Astyra in 1997; it provides information technology staffing and consulting services. The governor's website recently featured Astyra as its business spotlight.

**Lance Orndorff '91**, who publishes as Lance Abrams, reached Amazon.com's No. 1 spot for religion and spirituality in June with his book, "Harness Your Quantum Spirituality and Make It Work for You." The book guides readers to create their futures by taking decisive actions in their lives.

**Deborah Cox '92** began June 1 as director of the communication office for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. She previously worked

at television stations in Hampton Roads and Richmond and for the Virginia State Police at its Midlothian, Va., headquarters.

**Nicole Stuart '92 (M.P.A. '95)**, president of Top Guard Security, was recognized by MBE Magazine (minority business entrepreneurs) as a "WBE (Woman Business Entrepreneur) Who Rocks." The firm was recognized for 19 years of steady growth. It is the largest woman-owned business in Hampton Roads, with more than 750 employees.

**Julie Navarrete '93 (M.S. '97)** has been named chief development officer for the Nashville (Tenn.) MTA and its Regional Transportation Authority. She previously worked to develop multi-modal transport systems and high-capacity transit such as light rail at Hampton Roads Transit.

**Keith Rettig '93** designed software to help a buddy develop a drive-up paper-shredding kiosk to prevent identity theft. The Shred Stop is about the size of a vending machine; customers pay \$2.50 a minute to convert their private papers into confetti. The company has 17 kiosks across the Pacific Northwest, but the men say they need closer to 100 units to turn a profit.

**Suzanne Rice (M.S. Ed. '96)** has been promoted to assistant superintendent for student services for Suffolk Public Schools. She previously worked three years as director of human resources and 15 years as a principal in Suffolk elementary and high schools. Prior to that, she was a classroom teacher.

**Gary Keffer '97** has been hired as director of strategic marketing by Universal Music Group Nashville. Keffer was most recently director of media and partnerships for Remington Arms Co., where he managed media strategy and brokered sponsorships and product placement for films such as "American Sniper" and "Jurassic World."

**Harry L. Marsh '98 (M.P.A. '05)** was relieved as commanding officer in a change-of-command ceremony aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem on May 12 at Changi Naval Base in Singapore. Marsh's next tour is chief of staff for Commander Amphibious Squadron Three in San Diego.

**Daniel O'Leary (M.S. Ed. '98)** became principal at Nansemond River High School in Suffolk on July 1. He has led middle schools in Suffolk Public Schools for 14 years and has worked in the system since 1990.

**Keith Chow '99** wrote an editorial published in The New York Times, "Why Won't Hollywood Cast Asian Actors?" (Read it at <http://nyti.ms/1QwPreh>.) Chow's work campaigning against Asian stereotypes was featured in the summer 2013 Monarch magazine.

## 2000s

**Melanie J. Wilhelm (M.S.N. '01, D.N.P. '10)** has released "Raising Today's Baby," a book for parents of children from birth to 1 year. The title is recommended reading for ODU nurse practitioner students. Wilhelm is an adjunct assistant professor at ODU and has been a pediatric nurse practitioner with Pediatric Specialists in Hampton Roads since 2002.

**Clair Berube (Ph.D. '01)**, an associate professor of education and science education at Hampton University, received the 2016 Innovation Teaching Award for Hampton University.

**Peter Lynch '01** was promoted to county assessor for Albemarle County (Virginia) in April after a year as the assistant county assessor. He previously supervised commercial real estate appraisals for the City of Virginia Beach, where he had worked since 2001.

**Vance Cooper (M.P.A. '02)** has been promoted from district chief to deputy fire chief of services in Virginia Beach. He has been a firefighter for the city since 1990; one of his many service activities is his leadership for Virginia Task Force 2, a specialized rescue organization.

**Lt. Col. Randal H. Robison (M.S. Ed. '03)** retired in January 2016 as a chaplain and chief in the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care at Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Ga. He has settled in Cumming, Ga., and plans to teach special needs students in grades 5 to 9. "My time at ODU set me up for future successes in my military career," he says.

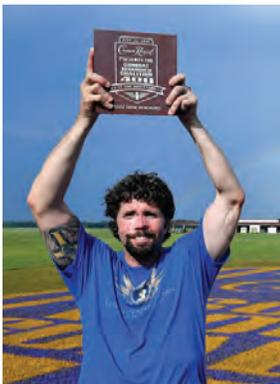


**ALL IN THE FAMILY - Susan Hodges '94 (M.S. Ed. '96, '12)** shows off her classroom bulletin board, appropriately decorated with Monarch paraphernalia, at Western Branch High School in Chesapeake. The earth science teacher is Chesapeake's Secondary Teacher of the Year. She's with her dad, John Hoofnagle, who started taking Hodges to ODU basketball games when she was 5. He has been a proud Monarch supporter since 1965 and has created a scrapbook of every basketball season and given it to coaches dating back to Sonny Allen.



**FOUR MIGHTY MONARCHS.** All are trainers at CrossFit Krypton in Chesapeake, and three are brothers. From left: Dane Smith and Alec Smith, expected to graduate from Old Dominion in 2019 and 2018, respectively; Christian Becker '15, and Ben Smith '12, founder of the gym. Ben, you may remember, was named the CrossFit "Fittest Man on Earth" last year. This year, Sports Illustrated ranked Ben No. 3 on its "Fittest 50" list.

**Jason Redman '04** was picked for the "Your Hero's Name Here" Brickyard 400 NASCAR race this year. Redman asked if his charity, Combat Wounded Coalition, could be honored instead. Race officials agreed and the Crown Royal presents



the Combat Wounded Coalition 400 at the Brickyard was run July 24 in Indianapolis, Ind. Redman was an enlisted Navy SEAL for 11 years before attending ODU. After graduation, he returned to duty as an officer, and was wounded in action in 2007. It took dozens of surgeries to recover, which led Redman and his wife, Erica, to found CWC as well as Wounded Wear

charities, which have helped more than 500 veterans overcome the wounds of war.

**Jennifer Melnyk '05** was recently named executive director of First Colonial Inn, a senior living community in the Hilltop area of Virginia Beach.

**Ashley Wroton '05 (M.S. Ed. '06, Ed.S. '11)** tapped her skills as a school counselor and registered play therapist to co-write a book, "It's ... Just Private" (Mirror Publishing), to help teach young children appropriate boundaries with their bodies in positive, age-appropriate language. She and her co-author are therapists at Genesis Counseling Center in Hampton.

**Jeff Cunningham '06**, who publishes as J.D. Cunegan, has added a third novel, "Behind the Badge," to his series on Baltimore homicide detective Jill Andersen (Amazon).

**Pratik Kothari '06** launched a web design,

software and app development company, TechArk, four years ago. Business is booming, with successes such as "Dress Pal," "Honey, I got it!" and "Social Mints" apps and several awards for entrepreneurship, public service and web design. This fall, Kothari relocated his offices to 415 W. York St., closer to the creative district in downtown Norfolk.

**Mark Santana '06** left ODU and headed to the University of Zaragoza, Spain, as a Fulbright Scholar. He has since earned two master's degrees and a Ph.D., mostly in environmental engineering. He now works for the Catalan Water Research Institute in Girona, Spain. One of his major projects develops technologies to recycle hotels' gray water, thus preserving potable water in dry Mediterranean coastal communities.

**Ronnie Nelson Sidney '06** wrote "Nelson Beats

the Odds" based on his own experiences as a student in special education classes in Tappahannock, Va., due to a learning disability. His graphic novel celebrates resilience, friendship and empowerment to overcome learning disabilities. (He persevered and earned a master's degree in social work.) In his second book, "Tameka's New Dress," released in June, Tameka finds a creative way to overcome bullying without becoming one herself. Sidney's #iBeatTheOdds Facebook page gives others a place to share their stories of beating the odds.

**Katie Moore '07 (M.S. Ed. '10)** of Norfolk entered the cloistered religious Order of Poor Clares as a postulant in January 2016 at its monastery in rural New Kent County. Moore was active in the Catholic campus ministry and ROTC program at ODU. She served for eight years in the Virginia Army National Guard while earning a master's degree in speech language pathology and working as a speech therapist in Norfolk.

**Jason Purse (M.P.A. '07)**, James City County's zoning administrator since 2013 and a Williamsburg native, has been promoted to assistant county administrator. Purse was hired by the county in 2005 as a planner.

**Tonya Sinclair Swindell (M.S. '07)**, an occupational therapist at the Hampton VA Medical Center, contributed a chapter to the book, "Determined to Succeed" (Amazon). Swindell shared insights into her home life -- juggling challenges as a wife, a mom with four children, and full-time worker.

**Laura Lewin '09** was promoted in June to assistant vice president at TowneBank in the Suffolk headquarters. She works in the treasury and merchant sales department and has been at TowneBank for nine years.

**Crystal D. Washington-Crawford '09** received a Doctor of Pharmacy in May 2016 from the Georgia Campus - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is a native of Gloucester, Va.

## 2010s

**Cristina Ayala '16** has put her fluency in Spanish to work. Ayala, 27, has landed a job in Spain as an event coordinator with Real Madrid Foundation, which offers summer soccer camps for more than 3,000 children from 80 countries. Her duties include nailing down the logistics of drop-offs and pickups of students from the stadium and airport. Unfortunately, Ayala can't partake in one popular Spanish pastime: "Siesta is not practiced when you are in event coordi-

nating. We work up to 12-hour days."

**Jessica S. Denny '10** has been promoted to assistant vice president in the Suffolk headquarters of TowneBank. She has worked 10 years for the company, and is part of the treasury and merchant sales department.

**Kelly Anne Blount (M.S. Ed. '11)** is an elementary school educator-turned-author of two scary young adult novels optioned for movie adaptations. "Captured," published on Wattpad two years ago, received 12 million reads. Her newest horror/thriller novel, "Under," has 1 million reads and continues to grow.

**David Haught '12**, a musician in Appomattox, Va., performed the title role in "Hank Williams: Lost Highway" with the Endstation Theatre Company, based in Lynchburg. The role fit him perfectly: Haught sings and plays guitar and has a passion for classic country music.

**Vann M. Lassiter (Ph.D. '12)** has published "Designed for Purpose," a devotional, available through Amazon. His intent is to inspire others toward greater self-esteem and to apply their talents to change the world. He was honored in 2010 as North Carolina AT&T Regional Teacher of the Year.

**Stephanie Adkins Cannaday '13** has been appointed branch manager of Carter Bank & Trust's Oak Level office in Bassett, Va. She has been employed at the bank for more than 10 years.

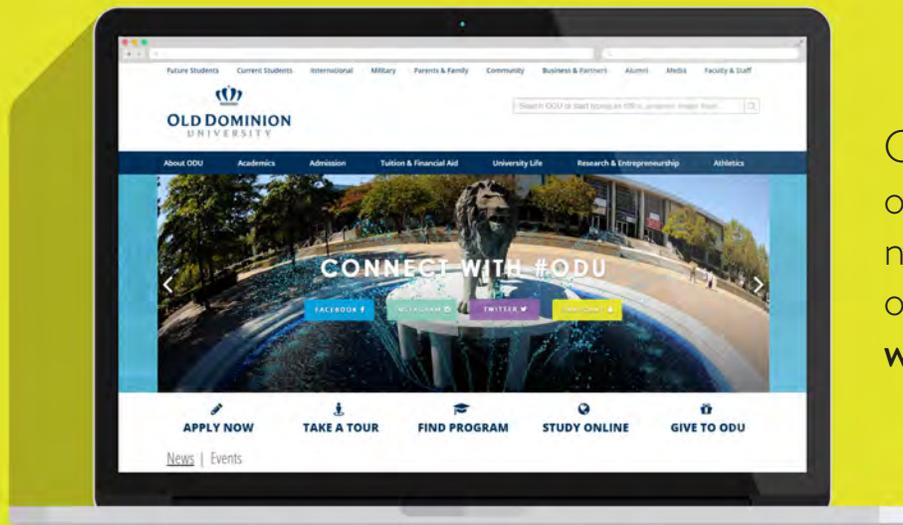
**Sarah Glaser '15** gained a following with her weekly comic posted outside her office in Batten Arts and Letters Building and comics in the Mace & Crown student newspaper. Currently working toward a master's degree in humanities with a focus on the visual language of comics, Glaser aspires to earn a Ph.D. in comic studies and teach in higher education.

**Greg Tomchick '15** opened a website and mobile application development company, Incubation Technologies, to support entrepreneurs. He'll provide the infrastructure -- web design, marketing and management setup -- to free entrepreneurs to focus on creative and technical tasks associated with their startups.

**Missy Sullivan (Ph.D. '16)**, who works at First Colonial High School in Virginia Beach, was named the Region II outstanding teacher of 2016 by the Virginia Association for the Gifted. Sullivan has taught in Virginia Beach City Public Schools for 17 years.

## WEDDING BELLS

**Amelia B. Knight '13** and Christopher G. Allen-Shinn announced their plans to marry July 9 at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach. The bride majored in health care administration and is employed as a licensed practical nurse.



Check out our brand new look online at [www.odu.edu](http://www.odu.edu)

*Received Jan. 1–June 30, 2016*

**Rose Frances Levinson Glasser '36** of Virginia Beach, 4/20/16

**Melvin E. Cruser Jr. '37** of Virginia Beach, 6/12/16

**Douglas W. McClain '41** of Chesapeake, 6/13/16

**Melvin L. Simms '42** of Virginia Beach, 5/8/16

**Mildred A. Dozier '45** of Norfolk, 2/12/16

**Bertram S. Nusbaum Jr. '46** of Norfolk, 1/2/16

**Speros J. Caravas '47** of Virginia Beach, 1/13/16

**Laurence M. Bragg '49** of Norfolk, 3/22/16

**Athena Coutavas '50** of Norfolk, 4/5/16

**Alfred D. Faison Jr. '50** of Virginia Beach, 6/17/16

**Betty L. Burton '51** of Norfolk, 4/2/16

**John S. Mastrangelo '51** of Chesapeake, 2/27/16

**Thomas M. Gwynn Jr. '52** of Norfolk, 1/26/16

**Augustine J. Russo '52** of Virginia Beach, 5/13/16

**John A. Cutchin Jr. '53** of Virginia Beach and Portsmouth, 5/29/16

**George R. Costis '54** of Norfolk, 3/20/16

**Robert C. Scull '55** of Hampton, 2/17/16

**Albert T. Woodson '55** of Chesapeake, 3/25/16

**K. Jean Whitehurst '56 (M.S. '78)** of Severna Park, Md., 3/10/16

**Irvin G. Mater '57** of Daleville, Va., 5/19/16

**Virginia K. Davis '58** of Charlotte, N.C., and Hobe Sound, Fla., 2/7/16

**Robert J. Soble '60s** of Norfolk, 1/6/16

**Frederick M. Johnson '60** of Chesapeake, 6/21/16

**Charles A. Baldwin Sr. '62** of Springfield, Va., 2/10/16

**Ellen Keese Craver '62** of Chesapeake, 4/24/16

**Patrick R. Rogers '62** of Chesapeake, 12/10/15

**O. Jack Blevins Sr. '63** of Virginia Beach, 6/21/16

**Susan Dunning LaRose '63** of Palm Bay, Fla., 11/22/15

**Helen Coffield Davenport '64 (M.S. Ed. '73)** of Chesapeake, 3/18/16

**Frederick C. Mason '64** of Norfolk, 5/29/16

**Claude B. Rollins III '65** of Aydtlett, N.C., 6/14/16

**Helen McCann Waid '66** of Virginia Beach, 5/15/16

**Daniel P. Elliott '67 (M.S. Ed. '69)** of Chesapeake, 1/28/16

**Lt. Col. Ronald C. Harrington, USMC (Ret) '68** of Norfolk, 5/29/16

**Carlton R. Mitchell '68** of Norfolk, 2/22/16

**Gwen Seidler Stevens '68** of Virginia Beach, 2/4/16

**David L. Christensen '69** of Virginia Beach, 6/4/16

**Joseph P. Conrad '70** of Virginia Beach, 1/3/16

**Walter R. Earl (M.S. Ed. '70, Ph.D. '87)** of Virginia Beach, 3/12/16

**Robert J. Kirkland, USN (Ret) '70** of Leesburg, Fla., 2/8/16

**Lt. Col. J. Carl Markun, USA (Ret) '70** of Newport News, 3/5/16

**Everette L. McMahan Jr. '70 (M.S. Ed. '78)** of Chesapeake, 6/8/16

**Michael Storm Jr. '70 (M.S. Ed. '74, C.A.S. '81)** of Virginia Beach, 11/24/15

**Betty Gibbs Holmes (M.S. Ed. '71, C.A.S. '75)** of Virginia Beach, 5/2/16

**Francis J. Hornik Jr. '71** of Chesapeake, 4/29/16

**Michael R. Vanture '71 (M.S. Ed. '91)** of Virginia Beach, 5/22/16

**Dahn E. Crandall '72 (M.S. '74)** of Pottstown, Pa., 1/27/16

**Bessie G. Barnes (M.S. Ed. '73, '84)** of Virginia Beach, 6/28/16

**Charlotte W. Fitzgerald (M.S. Ed. '73)** of Franklin, Va., 3/9/16

**David E. Hargrove '73 (M.S. '75)** of Hampton, 1/21/16

**Elliot M. Juren '73** of Norfolk, 6/7/16

**Cmdr. Gene R. Moore, USN (Ret) '73, '76** of Virginia Beach, 1/4/16

**Brian C. Page '73** of Denver, Pa., 2/6/16

**Mary Alspaugh Parrish '73 (M.S. Ed. '76)** of Norfolk, 6/5/16

**Carl R. Stillman '73** of Chesapeake, 4/17/16

**Elizabeth Taylor Tazewell '73** of Virginia Beach, 6/23/16

**Sarah M. Wagner '73** of Norfolk, 3/25/16

**Charles B. Whitestone '73** of Alexandria, Va., 12/25/15

**Charles E. Costas '74** of Norfolk, 3/3/16

**Gloria Norris Etheridge (M.A. '74)** of Norfolk, 10/31/15

**R. Blackwell Smith II '74** of Petersburg, Va., 5/10/16

**William S. Staples '74** of Hampton, 4/22/16

**Lester F. Mutchler '75** of Virginia Beach, 6/20/16

**Hiram E. Perkinson Jr. '75** of Chesapeake, 2/27/16

**Sally Bratton Spisak '75, '73** of Mobile, Ala., 5/27/16

**Jacqueline Wilson '75** of Newport News, 2/2/16

**J. David Leitch III '76** of Virginia Beach, 4/11/16

**LaVerne T. Alebiosu-Corprew '77** of Norfolk, 2/25/16

**Capt. Leo J. Marshall, USN (Ret) (M.S. Ed. '77)** of Chesapeake, 4/20/16

**Dorothy Marsh Fariss (M.S. Ed. '78)** of Virginia Beach, 3/16/16

**Lt. J.g. Marnee Slate McLean, USN (Ret) '78** of Pittsford, N.Y., 2/27/16

**Samuel J. Annunziata Jr. '79** of Chesapeake, 3/4/16

**Dianne I. Baron '79** of Gloucester, Va., 1/7/16

**Dennis S. Bradshaw '79** of Virginia Beach, 3/20/16

**Richard C. Lester '79** of Virginia Beach, 5/29/16

**Theresa Maloney Reddy (M.S. Ed. '79)** of Silver Spring, Md., 4/11/16

**Capt. Shawn L. Smith, USNR (Ret) '79** of Fort Worth, Texas, 2/23/16

**Elizabeth J. Urquhart (M.S. Ed. '79)** of Newport News, 10/17/15

**Alex W. Enesey Jr. '80** of Virginia Beach, 4/5/16

**Cmdr. Robert T. Weatherly, USN (Ret) (M.S. Ed. '81)** of Virginia Beach, 5/8/16

**Debra Hufford Nolan '82 (M.A. '83)** of Sterling, Va., 6/11/16

**Curtis D. Snider '82** of Chesapeake, 6/15/16

**Robert E. Tolley '82** of Chesapeake, 3/5/16

**Carolyn H. Wilson (M.S. Ed. '82, C.A.S. '87)** of Prince George, Va., 2/22/16

**Edward R. Farrar '83** of York, S.C., 5/7/16

**Grace E. Tucker Fruit (M.A. '83)** of Virginia Beach, 4/28/16

**Wayne K. Hylton '83** of Norfolk, 3/5/16

**Cornelius E. Lee, USN (Ret) '83** of Chesapeake, 2/26/16

**Donna Authement Miller '83** of Suffolk, 4/22/16

**Howard A. Tawney (M.P.A. '83)** of Manchester, N.H., 3/30/16

**Constance F. Brothers (Ph.D. '84)** of Scottsdale, Ariz., 2/6/16

**Catherine G. Clarke (M.S. Ed. '84)** of Smithfield, Va., 1/24/16

**Mary K. Mullen '84 (M.S. '93)** of Washington, D.C., 4/6/16

**Charles H. Yeomans '84** of Virginia Beach, 3/12/16

**Elizabeth K. Jones '85** of Norfolk, 1/28/16

**Jean Bernard Gazarian ('86 Hon)** of New York, N.Y., 1/18/16

**Eleanor Mills Bradshaw Hotchkiss (M.S. Ed. '86)** of Franklin, Va., 6/6/16

**Jessica L. Peterson '86** of Virginia Beach, 5/27/16

**Evelyn Hester Watts '86** of Virginia Beach, 6/6/16

**Donald Baker '87** of Moncks Corner, S.C., and Hampton, 5/23/16

**Barbara Norris Brown '87** of Hyattsville, Md., 3/27/16

**David G. Guthrie Jr. '87** of Pensacola, Fla., 12/23/15

**Kathleen Duffy Holcomb '87** of Leesburg, Va., 1/18/16

**Ella Smith Taylor (C.A.S. '87)** of Franklin, 5/6/16

**David S. Guye '88** of Newport News, 6/4/16

**Sr. Theresa Kreibick (M.S. '88, Psy.D. '92)** of Baltimore, Md., 5/26/16

**Edward Bustamante '89** of Virginia Beach, 6/8/16

**Ellen A. Crow '89 (M.S. Ed. '09)** of Virginia Beach, 2/10/16

**Brian M. Howard '89 (M.B.A. '97)** of Chesapeake, 1/12/16

**Kathryn M.G. Rabuse '91** of Chesapeake, 12/4/15

**Capt. Robert A. Melvin III, USCG (Ret) (M.S. Ed. '92)** of Elizabeth City, N.C., 6/15/16

**Tiffany Moisan (M.S. '92)** of Princess Anne, Md., 6/5/16

**Frederick M. Brooks (M.S. Ed. '93)** of Virginia Beach, 2/19/16

**Jenna Brown Agnello '96** of Norfolk, 4/12/16

**Cmdr. David G. Dickover, USN (Ret) (M.S. Ed. '96)** of Virginia Beach, 1/23/16

**Cmdr. John F. Mahon, USN (Ret) (M.S. Ed. '96)** of Virginia Beach, 2/19/16

**Kathryn Davis Amish '97** of Bryan, Texas, 3/29/16

**Jennifer E. Martin '97** of Yorktown, Va., 4/28/16

**Harriet F. McCallister (M.S. Ed. '97)** of Virginia Beach and Boca Raton, Fla., 7/20/16

**Capt. Wesley A. Smith, USN (M.S. Ed. '97)** of Jacksonville, Fla., 10/10/15

**Jean R. K. Kendall '01** of Virginia Beach, 3/21/16

**Jay C. Clarke '03** of Norfolk, 2/8/16

**Kristy Weeks Bryan (M.P.A. '04)** of Chesapeake, 12/11/15

**Donna Reid Hall '04** of Newport News, 2/23/16

**Dana C. Stevenson (M.S. Ed. '04)** of Woodbridge, Va., 4/29/16

**J. Michael Hunter '05** of Norfolk, 6/21/16

**Kelly Edwards MacDonald (M.S. Ed. '05)** of Virginia Beach, 3/14/16

**Heather Hall Edwards '06 (M.S. Ed. '07)** of Charlotte, N.C., 4/4/16

**Jeannine Tigges Perry '08** of Virginia Beach, 2/18/16

**Jessica E. Wilton '09** of Milford, Del., 4/12/16

**Kasie Schmitt DeMarco '11 (M.S. Ed. '12)** of Virginia Beach, 6/7/16

**Galaspa "G.C." Duck III (D.P.T. '12)** of Harrisonburg, Va., 1/29/16

**A. Phillips Mahood '12** of Bluefield, Va., 3/26/16

**Tyler W. Jones '13** of Burke, Va., 4/25/16

**Shana R. Braxton (enrolled)** of Richmond, Va., 3/12/16

**Darren Campbell (enrolled)** of Chesterfield, Va., 4/24/16

**Jordan Zimmerman (enrolled)** of Richmond, Va., 8/12/16

**Brooke Briggs '01**, who received a heart transplant in 2010 at the age of 30, died of a heart attack on Aug. 31. She was 37.

After Briggs received her transplant, she intensified her volunteering efforts and work with nonprofits. Most recently, she was major gifts officer at Samaritan House in Virginia Beach. The days before her death, she volunteered at the East Coast Surfing Championships.

"She seized the day," Virginia Beach Councilwoman Shannon Kane told *The Virginian-Pilot*. "There wasn't a day I saw her that she wasn't smiling." Briggs said her strength came from "knowing what I do today is going to help someone tomorrow."



OCEANOGRAPHY AND PHYSICS BUILDING - PHOTO: SHARA WEBER

## OBITUARIES

**Glynn Coates**, a professor emeritus of psychology, died Feb. 8 in Virginia Beach. He was 76. Coates taught at Old Dominion for about 30 years.

The psychology department's spring newsletter included several tributes to Coates from former students. They included: "He made a huge impact on my life." "He is not one to be forgotten."

**Walter "Skip" Earl**, a former director of academic advising, died on March 12. He was 83. Earl began his career as a Methodist minister but joined Old Dominion as a student counselor in 1968. He later received his master's and doctoral degrees in psychology at Old Dominion and served as director of academic advising until 1995.

Earl also participated in the civil rights movement in the '60s and '70s in Norfolk.

**Alex Hawryluk**, a professor emeritus of management, died on May 29 at the age of 86. He taught at Old Dominion from 1961 to 1987 and co-founded the Tidewater Trading Post.

Away from the classroom, Hawryluk was a fearless body surfer and a resourceful do-it-yourselfer, installing Formica table-tops and replacing furnaces at home.

**Dr. Emanuel "Manny" Michaels**, a dentist who also served as an associate professor of dental hygiene at Old Dominion, died Aug. 7 at the age of 86.

Michaels worked as a dentist in Norfolk for 40 years and served as president of the Virginia and Tidewater Dental Associations and the Virginia Academy of General Dentistry.

**Donald Ogdon**, a professor emeritus of psychology, died on March 20. He was 92. He joined the university in 1963 and was a chairman of the psychology department. Ogdon retired in 1976 and continued

teaching as an adjunct professor until 2002.

During World War II, he served as a B29 crew member in the Pacific Ocean theater. Ogdon played drums with jazz bands into his 80s, was an avid Chicago Cubs fan and raised and trained dogs. He also was known for the whimsical letters he composed on his manual typewriter.

**Elizabeth Pappas**, an associate professor emerita of music, died in Virginia Beach on April 4. She was 91. Pappas taught at Old Dominion for 30 years.

She belonged to music organizations including Sigma Alpha Iota and Pi Kappa Lambda. Pappas also was a Norfolk master gardener.

**Karen Polonko**, a University Professor of sociology and criminal justice, died Aug. 22. She taught at Old Dominion since 1983 and was the first ODU professor to receive the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award, in 1991. Polonko also was named Virginia Professor of the Year in 1993.

Polonko founded the student organization In Support of Children and began an annual vigil of the same name to remember victims of child abuse. Polonko advocated against corporal punishment and completed an article this year on the law and mistreatment of children that is being studied by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. She also was active in the early years of the ODU Women's Caucus.

**Mark Schulz**, a lecturer in music who directed the department's recording studio, died on March 31. He was 54.

In 2014, Schulz joined Old Dominion, where he taught classes in recording software and audio engineering and managed the Chandler Recital Hall and the studio in the Diehn Center for the Performing Arts. Last year, he received a "Shining Star" award for helping students. Schulz

also won two Telly and two Emmy awards for music he composed for documentaries.

**Vasanth Solomon**, a former lecturer in mathematics and statistics, died on Jan. 30 in Sri Lanka. He was 80. Solomon was born in India and came to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship in 1964.

Solomon also taught at Radford University and Drake University in Iowa.

**Rabbi Arthur Z. Steinberg**, a former Jewish chaplain and adviser to the Hillel student group at Old Dominion, died on April 10. He was 78.

Steinberg served as rabbi of Temple Sinai, a Reform synagogue in Portsmouth, for 32 years and in 2012 was named rabbi emeritus at Ohel Sholom Temple in Norfolk.

**Robert Wolfson**, who led the ODU Research Foundation for 16 years, died Dec. 30, 2015. He was 68.

During his tenure, external funding grew from \$5 million to more than \$23 million. "He was instrumental in setting the groundwork for our success," said Larry Atkinson, professor and eminent scholar of oceanography. Wolfson left Old Dominion in 2000 and became executive director of the San Diego State University Research Foundation.

**Mel Williams**, eminent professor emeritus of exercise science and unofficial dean of the local running community, died on May 19. He was 78.

In 1968, Williams joined Old Dominion, where he founded the Human Performance Laboratory and the Wellness Institute. He was among the first to document the health risks of steroids. After he retired in 1997, Williams kept running.

Williams helped create the Tidewater Striders and finished more than 100 marathons. He won his age group in the Marine Corps Marathon 18 times.

## You've got to see 'Creature from the Haunted Sea'

Want to see such film classics as "Attack of the Giant Leeches" or "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians" in an unusual setting for free?

Check out Bad Movie Night, at 7 p.m. the first Friday of every month at Pretlow Planetarium. You can even bring drinks and popcorn, which can be popped in a couple of microwaves.

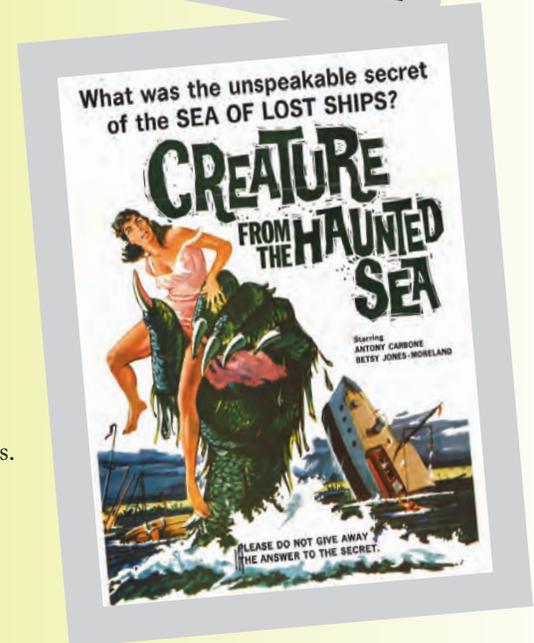
The monthly feature began in March 2015, said Justin Mason, the director of the planetarium, which is south of Alfriend Chemistry Building.

Why bad movies? They're in the public domain and can be shown for free, Mason said. Often, the special effects are laughable and the script corny. But "sometimes a movie can be so bad that it becomes fun to watch."

The movies are kid-friendly, Mason said. The rare moments of violence tend to be "ridiculous," such as a battle with "a large, rubbery-looking monster."

The audience is a mix of students, faculty and staff members, and community residents. Many come early for a 6:30 p.m. trivia quiz, which awards prizes to the winners.

Mason said this year's lineup might even include a few good films. The first two in 2017 will be "Night of the Blood Beast," shown on Jan. 6, and "Creature from the Haunted Sea," on Feb. 3. *For more information, go to [www.odu.edu/planetarium](http://www.odu.edu/planetarium).*



## Rec center offers gym classes for senior citizens

**Y**ou don't have to be under 25 to work out at the Student Recreation Center. In fact, you can be a lot older.

The university's Wellness Institute and Research Center sponsors two programs to help seniors stay in shape:

TEMPO (Therapeutic Exercise to Maximize Patient Outcomes) is geared for people with conditions such as pulmonary or heart disease or diabetes or who have suffered strokes.

Classes are held 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Forever Fit is designed to help seniors stay in shape and improve strength,

balance and flexibility with low-impact, low-intensity training. Classes are 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Doctor's approval is required for both classes, which are supervised by a graduate assistant in the master's program in exercise science. They are held in Room 1006 of the Student Recreation Center. Equipment includes cardio machines, such as treadmills and seated ellipticals, as well as weight machines and free weights.

"These classes offer the seniors a means to exercise and stay healthy that is not only more affordable but also provides them with a program that is structured

to their individualized needs," said Kim Baskette, the director of the Wellness Institute and Research Center.

Robert Stewart, a retired Norfolk Circuit Court judge, began attending TEMPO after he underwent coronary artery bypass grafting in 1995. "I have been there constantly, except for a few interruptions, for the last 20 years," Stewart, 86, said. "I consider the program to be a lifesaver."

The classes are open to local residents. The fee is \$25 a month. For more details, call 683-6407 or email [kbaskett@odu.edu](mailto:kbaskett@odu.edu) or [zspli001@odu.edu](mailto:zspli001@odu.edu).



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# A pregame show of harmony

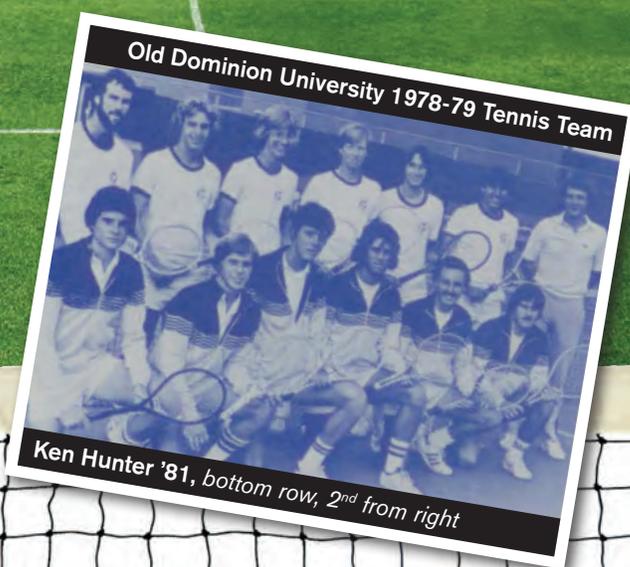
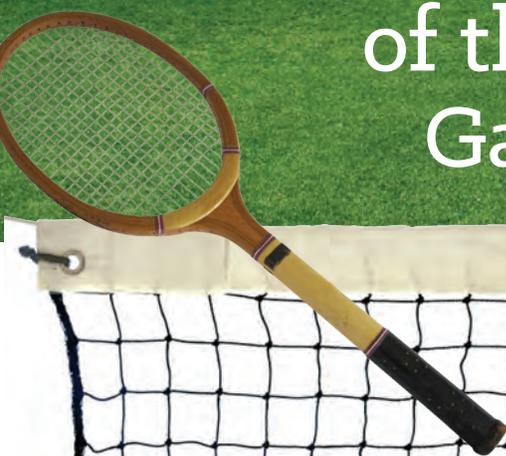


PHOTO: DAVID STRICKLAND

Perhaps the football team's biggest win this season has been its "circle of unity." Before most games, the players have encircled the field with their opponents, joining hands and then raising their arms. The practice got the attention of ESPN, with alum Jay Harris '87 interviewing Coach Bobby Wilder about it. Pro football and basketball teams also have adopted it.

"The message," wide receiver Zach Pascal said, "is that if we all come together, we can make a change, that if we all love one another, there will be no violence." It's also brought the team closer, uniting players from different backgrounds – and different positions.

# All for the Love of the Game



“Tennis has been a defining part of my life,” said Ken Hunter ’81. “It led to shared friendships and life lessons, and it all started when my mother gave me her old Jack Kramer tennis racket. I didn’t take lessons—just started swinging the racket. I was successful in getting the ball over the net and maintaining a rally.” In 1965, the Hunters lived in Long Beach, Calif., across town from a very good tennis player named Billie Jean King. With people following her national rise, he found it an exciting time to live there. Ken played the local public courts with standout player Jimmy Hardy, whose older brother Greg went on to a professional career. All in all, Ken was surrounded by tennis.

The family moved to Arlington, Va., in 1966 when Ken’s father was assigned to the Pentagon. Ken joined the Greater Washington Tennis Association, playing in the 12-and-under category and winning lots of trophies. “We belonged to the Army-Navy Country Club, and I played often with my father. In the summer he’d drop me off on the way to the Pentagon, and I’d play all day with a friend. Dad would stop on the way home and join my friend and his father for a foursome. It was a fun time for Dad and me. Additionally, I worked at the Washington Star Tennis Tournament and was a ball boy for tennis royalty Arthur Ashe, John Newcombe and Charlie Pasarell. It was there that I also met tennis legend Don Budge. Tennis had a profound effect on me at that time of my life, and these men were my heroes.”

Taking a break from tennis when the family moved to Virginia Beach in 1969, Ken took up surfing. That changed, however, when he went to Princess Anne High School and joined Coach Harold Wheeler’s tennis team for his junior and senior years. After high school, Ken joined the Navy and, from Guam, qualified for the All-Navy Tennis Tournament in 1975. After being away from home only four months, he showed up on

his parents’ doorstep in Virginia Beach, where the tournament was to be held. Although it was an exciting and memorable competition, Ken lost in the first round to Kevin Miller, who played the number one slot for the Naval Academy.

Following the Navy, Ken came to ODU as a walk-on for tennis coach Ken Rand. He had a great time playing with Bill Clark, Colin Davis, Todd Furniss, John Harrison and Tim Knerr, whom Ken described as a “cohesive and supportive group.”

For one year, Ken managed to do well academically while holding double majors in pre-med and English. Eventually, though, “I had to choose,” he said. Because he wanted to pursue medical school, the time demands of tennis and academics proved impossible. “But,” Ken said, “tennis is a lifetime sport”—and he looked forward to that.

Ken went on to become an accomplished dermatologist and surgeon and practiced until he lost his eyesight in 2013. As a result, he also had to give up tennis and other sports. But watching tennis is still something Ken enjoys. Ken’s love for tennis has taken him to the U.S. Open in New York, and to the Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I.

“ODU was the secret to my continued success,” Ken said. “I received a wonderful education. I was challenged by my professors, well prepared for the MCATS and primed for a medical career. I got into EVMS the first year I applied.” For these reasons, and for the love of the game, Ken named the Old Dominion Athletic Foundation as the owner and beneficiary of an insurance policy that will endow a men’s tennis scholarship in his name following his death. The scholarship will fund an academic scholar and stellar tennis player. “Tennis has been an important part of my life,” Ken said, “and I want to cultivate an Academic-All-American at ODU. It’s my greatest dream to achieve that kind of recognition for the university.”

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**MONARCHS**

|         |                |      |
|---------|----------------|------|
| Nov. 11 | JMU            | 7 PM |
| Nov. 30 | Dartmouth      | 7 PM |
| Dec. 10 | VCU            | 8 PM |
| Dec. 18 | Georgia State  | 2 PM |
| Dec. 22 | Howard         | 7 PM |
| Dec. 29 | William & Mary | 7 PM |
| Dec. 31 | Rice*          | 1 PM |
| Jan. 2  | North Texas*   | 5 PM |
| Jan. 12 | Southern Miss* | 7 PM |
| Jan. 14 | LA Tech*       | 6 PM |
| Feb. 2  | FIU*           | 7 PM |
| Feb. 4  | FAU*           | 7 PM |
| Feb. 18 | Charlotte*     | 7 PM |
| Feb. 23 | Marshall*      | 8 PM |
| Feb. 25 | WKU*           | 7 PM |

**LADY MONARCHS**

|         |                |       |
|---------|----------------|-------|
| Nov. 18 | Norfolk State  | 7 PM  |
| Nov. 20 | William & Mary | 2 PM  |
| Nov. 27 | NC Central     | 2 PM  |
| Nov. 30 | Dartmouth      | 11 AM |
| Dec. 9  | VCU            | 7 PM  |
| Dec. 18 | Hampton        | 5 PM  |
| Jan. 5  | Marshall*      | 7 PM  |
| Jan. 7  | WKU*           | 4 PM  |
| Jan. 21 | Charlotte*     | 4 PM  |
| Jan. 26 | Rice*          | 7 PM  |
| Jan. 28 | North Texas*   | 7 PM  |
| Feb. 9  | MTSU*          | 7 PM  |
| Feb. 11 | UAB*           | 4 PM  |
| March 2 | UTEP*          | 7 PM  |
| March 4 | UTSA*          | 1 PM  |

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