

ACADEMIC SUCCESS INITIATIVES

One Goal. Many By Your Side.



Welcome to the Academic Success Initiatives (ASI) quarterly newsletter. We hope this communication will help spread the word about our work to support students and faculty. There are many of us in ASI, but our goal is the same – successful student outcomes.

WELCOME, NEW MONARCHS!



Amy M. Johnson, PhD (she/her) began as the new Assistant Vice President for Academic Success and affiliated faculty member in the Department of African and African American Studies, effective June 10, 2024.

Johnson oversees offices and teams under **Academic Success Initiatives**, including the Office of Advising Administration, the Office of Academic Innovation & Learning Support, the Office of Study Abroad, the Monarch Internship & Co-op Office, and TRiO Programs.

Johnson received her PhD, Master's degree, and a certificate in African and African American Studies from Duke University. She is a scholar of West African and Caribbean History, and General Education. She received her bachelor's degrees in Spanish and the African Diaspora from Tufts University.

Alongside many others within and outside of ASI, one major goal this year is to enhance advising services across campus and implement strategies for improving the student-advisor experience at ODU.



Lill Haber, M.A. began as the new Executive Director for the Office of Advising Administration on July 25th.

She comes to ODU from Vanderbilt University, where she oversaw the pre-major advising program in the College of Arts and Science. She is excited to partner with ODU's professional advising teams to strengthen and grow academic advising.

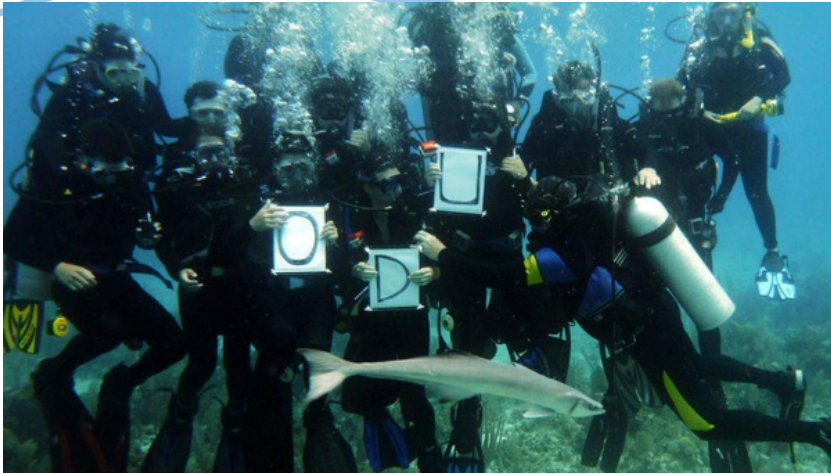
Lill received a Bachelor's degree in German and a Master's in Educational Psychology and Counselor Education from Tennessee Technological University. She is currently pursuing an Ed.D in Assessment, Learning, and Student Success from Middle Tennessee State University.



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Office of Study Abroad



ASI WELCOMES THE OFFICE OF STUDY ABROAD!

The Office of Study Abroad Mission, Functions, & Experience

The Office of Study Abroad offers students at Old Dominion University the opportunity to study abroad/away during their academic careers and broaden their cultural and global experiences to make the world a better place in the process. Any major from any college is encouraged to participate, with more than 850 programs in over 70 countries to explore and learn from. Studying abroad offers many program types, including ODU faculty-led programs, ODU exchanges, Affiliated programs, and Virtual study abroad and internships. These programs can vary from a short-term, semester, year, or summer.

Michael Dean has served as the **Deputy Director of the Center for Global Engagement** since 2001. As the Deputy Director, Dean works with students, faculty, and staff to expand study abroad/study away opportunities as well as to further develop ODU's global engagement efforts. **Study Abroad Coordinators Christine Clarke and Nathan Owens, and Office Manager Mary Crepeau** collaborate to ensure the Study Abroad Office continues to provide accessible, deeply impactful, and safe learning experiences for students and faculty.

Each member of the Office of Study Abroad has extensive experience in engaging with international studies and students in a higher education environment, which has fueled their passion for promoting study abroad/study away opportunities for students at Old Dominion University.

Get to Know the Study Abroad Team

In his free time, Michael enjoys listening to live music, spending time with his wife and two children, and seeking new adventures whenever an opportunity presents itself. Christine enjoys reading, cross-stitching, spending time with friends, and attending the occasional BJJ class. Nathan spends his extra time traveling, boating, visiting friends, cooking, and exploring Norfolk's restaurant and brewery scene. In Mary's free time, she enjoys traveling, spending time with family, and relaxing at the beach.

ASI encourages you to stop by, say hello, and learn more about the opportunities they provide, or visit their website <https://www.odu.edu/studyabroad>.



Michael Dean
Deputy Director



Christine Clarke
Study Abroad Coordinator



Nathan Owens
Study Abroad Coordinator



MONARCH INTERNSHIP AND CO-OP OFFICE



A YEAR OF GROWTH AND SUCCESS

We are thrilled to share the latest updates from the Monarch Internship and Co-Op Office as we celebrate our **one-year anniversary!**

Established on July 1, 2023, our office has made significant strides in supporting Old Dominion University students in securing impactful internships that pave the way for their future professional development. On July 1, 2024, we marked our first anniversary, a testament to our commitment to enhancing student employability through experiential learning. This milestone was closely followed by our celebration of Virginia Intern Day on July 25, where we honored our student interns' hard work and achievements.

SUMMER SUCCESS: \$100,000 INTERNSHIP SUPPORT GRANT

This summer, we were proud to distribute a \$100,000 internship support grant aimed at helping our students overcome financial barriers to success. We are dedicated to ensuring that every ODU student has the resources they need to excel in their internships, regardless of their financial situation. This grant provided essential assistance to summer and fall student interns, covering housing hardships, transportation, materials, and other types of financial support. Student success stories were highlighted in [Inside Business](#).

MONARCH HUMANITIES INTERNSHIP ACADEMY: A SUMMER PILOT

The newly established Monarch Humanities Internship Academy has been hard at work launching a Summer pilot program. This 5-year, \$5,000,000 initiative is designed to help selected Humanities undergraduates engage in meaningful internships, offering them both practical experience and financial support. The Academy's efforts align with our broader goal of ensuring that all ODU students, regardless of their major, have access to high-quality internship opportunities.

LOOKING AHEAD: YEAR TWO AND BEYOND

As we enter our second year of operations, we are more committed than ever to helping ODU students secure life-changing internships. Our focus remains on expanding our support services, forging new employer partnerships, and increasing the number of students who participate in internships. This Fall, we will be announcing initiatives to distribute a \$100,000 data collection grant to make sure every student intern receives internship recognition on their academic transcript through our no cost-zero credit courses, UNIV 68 and GRAD 668 as well as support Blue Table Talk, an engaging student professional development series. We are excited about the future and the positive impact we will continue to have on the lives of our students. Thank you to our partners, supporters, and the ODU community for your ongoing dedication to student success. Together, we are shaping the future, one internship at a time!



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ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

Learning Communities

Hundreds of Learning Community students were welcomed to campus at ODU's annual Learning Communities Welcome Dinner in August. A collaboration between the Office of Academic Innovation & Learning Support and the Center for Career & Leadership Development (CCLD), the Welcome Dinner was designed to give students who are enrolled in a Living-Learning, Theme, or Impact Learning Community the chance to move in early, meet their peers enrolled in the program, and engage with faculty and staff who work with each community.



Annual Campus Theme (ACT)

Transitions: Our Experiences, Development, and Adaptation

Annual Campus Theme (ACT) is a multi-disciplinary campus initiative that aims to encourage discovery, growth, and engagement in today's national and global conversations. ACT combines academic courses, public lectures and exhibits, film showings, and other events to engage faculty, staff, students, and the community in a collective learning experience about a timely, relevant issue.

THE 2024-2025 THEME IS TRANSITIONS: OUR EXPERIENCES, DEVELOPMENT, AND ADAPTATION.

TRANSITIONS explores the many shifts that occur through personal, professional, or social experiences. Considering upcoming events such as the ODU/EVMS integrations, the presidential election, and others, this theme will offer space for the campus community to engage, learn, and reflect during times of change. Transitions can be explored from various disciplines and perspectives – the arts, sciences, business, education, engineering, health, cyber, and more.



LASHAY MCQUEEN

Director, Academic Initiatives
Office of Academic Innovation &
Learning Support

SINCE FALL 2021...

4

THEMES / YEARS

51

COURSES

61+

FACULTY
PARTICIPANTS



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More on Annual Campus Theme

Annual Campus Theme Faculty Luncheon

Faculty teaching ACT courses were invited to gather and share their plans for their courses during ODU's annual ACT Faculty Luncheon in August.

Each discussed the activities their students would be participating in, the events they have planned, and potential opportunities to collaborate.

Events for this year include photographic exhibits, student veteran workshops, faculty workshops, and leadership development seminars - all related to **Transitions**.

To learn more about the ACT courses and events, visit odu.edu/themed-year.



For more information about ACT, contact Director of Academic Initiatives, LaShay McQueen at lwyatt@odu.edu.



Transitions: A New Foundation Exhibition

An art exhibition encompassing the ACT was displayed in the Perry Library Gallery from August 26th to September 20th, 2024.

Professional ceramic students, teachers, and artists from ODU and the Hampton Roads area have united to create a new "foundation" for our community to build on; focusing on spaces and structures that have a positive impact and are geared toward the community and societal issues that are affecting us today in politics, religion, and conservation. The installation represents students from all nationalities, ethnicities, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds.



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COLLABORATIONS

The **Office of Study Abroad** and **Office of Academic Innovation and Learning Support**, with the **ePortfolio Studio**, collaborated in this Study Away Experience, connecting ODU students and faculty with education, culture, and history.

WHAT IS STUDYING AWAY?

The **ODU Center for Global Engagement** defines studying away as “courses that contain a short-term domestic travel component.” The purpose is for students to participate in a “high impact practice for the positive effect that participation has on student’s engagement, learning, and overall academic success” (Kuh, 2008).



Through Seattle Experience, ODU Students Engage, Inquire and Grow

In the spring semester of 2024, ODU students participated in a faculty-led studying away program to Seattle, Washington, as part of the course, **LGBTQ+ Organizational Culture in the Pacific Northwest**. In this program, Instructors **Alison Lietzenmayer**, **Carla Harrell**, and **Megan Mize** asked students to examine “the ways in which major tech companies, like Amazon and Microsoft, support and celebrate LGBTQIA+ culture and workers within their larger organizational culture.”

While in Seattle, students visited the Wing Luke Museum, Pioneer Square Neighborhood, major tech companies, large News Stations, and additional historical sites to research “**the ways in which organizational policies and gendered communication in these spaces promote equity and radical inclusivity.**”

Visiting these places in person gave students a deeper awareness and understanding of LGBTQ+ culture and Pan-Asian Americans and Immigrants’ experiences. Afterward, students were asked to collaborate on one ePortfolio to discuss their findings, compile media, and express their observations.

The impactful participant testimonials and academic development from this study away experience demonstrate the importance of engaging in “immersive learning experiences” for students and faculty.

All information was derived from two articles, To read the full articles with individual experiences and access to the students’ collaborative ePortfolio, click [here](#) and [here](#).

“Being able to share in the learning alongside the students creates a rich experience as an educator.”

Carla Harrell

“Just as other high-impact practices like service learning and internships (or work-based learning) teach us that many people learn by doing, you simply cannot learn about a culture as deeply as if you can safely and ethically explore a space yourself.”

Alison Lietzenmayer

“We could read about it in a book all we wanted, but actually meeting with people there and engaging with classmates about it, that was amazing.”

Riley Cunningham

TUTORING CENTRAL

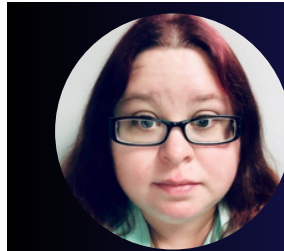
ODU has over 12 different tutoring centers across campus supporting hundreds of undergraduate courses and employing dozens of undergraduate peer tutors.

Academic Success Initiatives collaborates with all tutoring centers to discuss, coordinate, and evaluate efforts related to formalized tutoring services for students at Old Dominion University with the common goals of supporting student learning in the classroom, improving students' academic performance in challenging courses, and increasing student retention.

For a complete listing of centers and supported courses, please visit odu.edu/success/academic/tutoring.

THE WRITING CENTER

The **ODU Writing Center (WC)** provides free individual tutorials to undergraduate and graduate students, working on writing projects for any course; WC tutors are not editors or proofreaders, but they coach and encourage students to achieve independence in the composition and revision of their own work. The Writing Center is located in Perry Library Rm 1312.



MEGAN BOESHART
Senior Lecturer and Director
Writing Center
College of Arts & Letters

About the Writing Center Director

Meg Boeshart has worked in writing centers as both a tutor and director for over 15 years. She has served as the ODU Writing Center Director for 7 years.

TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE WRITING CENTER



The Writing Center serves students (both undergraduate and graduate students) and faculty working on writing for a variety of purposes. While the majority of writing we collaborate with folks on is for coursework, we also help with writing for other purposes, such as writing for publication, application/scholarship writing, writing for the public, thesis/dissertation writing, and creative writing.



The Writing Center is a collaborative space. In other words, we're here to talk through ideas, help writers find resources, and provide writers with feedback to help them improve as writers. We will even help with sentence level writing concerns like grammar and sentence structure, we just ask writers to actively participate during the session.



We can work with you on your writing at any stage in the process. Even if you don't have anything written yet, we can help you brainstorm and plan out your writing project! A piece of writing doesn't have to be "finished" or "complete" for us to meet with you and provide feedback.



The Writing Center is not just limited to on campus appointments, we also offer in-person, synchronous, and asynchronous online appointment options.



We serve approximately 2,000 students a semester through one-on-one appointments. However, we also offer group appointments for writers collaborating on group projects and classroom workshops upon request.

ADVISING AVENUE

FALL 2024 HIGHLIGHT

Stephanie Fahey, Interim Director for Engineering Student Success in the Batten College of Engineering and Technology, was awarded a \$3,000 NACADA (the Global Association for Academic Advising) research grant for a proposal entitled **Advisor-Initiated Early Interventions for First Semester Computer Engineering Undergraduate Students**.

The research project focuses on retention for Computer Engineering students and is being conducted in partnership with the Electrical and Computer Engineering department and the ODU student branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) organization. The project includes engaging students in programming to enhance their academic skills and anchoring students in the major through early introduction to an engineering activity. This Fall semester that activity includes work with a machine learning kit.

Congratulations, Stephanie!

The Transfer Initiatives Team hosts TRANSFER TUESDAYS

Another successful Monarch Experience Transfer Tuesday was held on August, 2024, with over 170+ transfer students in attendance!

More About Transfer Initiatives

- 40% of ODU student population are transfers; That means 2 out of 5 Monarchs transferred in from other schools throughout the nation!
- We had 200+ transfer students visit the Transfer Center during Orientation Success Teams Tours this past summer.
- 1,000+ student contacts via the Transfer Center hotline Spring & Summer 2024.
- 760+ Pre-transfer advising appointments in the Transfer Center Spring & Summer 2024.



STUDENT WORKER SPOTLIGHT



EVAN WHITE

Intern
Monarch Internship and Co-Op
Office

Evan White is a junior majoring in Political Science from Northern Virginia. He joined the Monarch Internship and Co-Op Office (MICO) as a Customer Service intern during its inaugural semester in Fall 2023, while searching for on-campus employment. Evan briefly stepped away from MICO to complete a fulfilling ODU internship with the Virginia General Assembly in Spring 2024, where he gained valuable experience in the legislative process.

Now back at MICO, Evan is eager to continue contributing to the office's success. He is also awaiting confirmation for a mentorship with the Greater Norfolk Corporation, which he hopes will provide him with the firsthand experience and connections necessary to pursue a career in government after graduation. Evan is an invaluable MICO team member!

"It's great to be back at ODU, reconnecting with my friends and colleagues." – Evan White

FACULTY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



JENNIFER HOYT

Head of ODU Libraries' Department of
Engagement

Dr. Jennifer Hoyt joined the ODU Libraries' Department of Engagement in 2020. As head of the department, she continually looks for opportunities to build sustainable internal and external relationships through strategic communications, collaboration, and partnering with colleges and departments across campus. Notably, Hoyt brands the Libraries' initiatives and vision to help strengthen connectivity with ODU faculty, students, and alumni.

Balancing lifelong learning with leadership, she launched her career within ABC and NBC news affiliates as a broadcast news producer, reporter, and eventually, news director, receiving the Scripps Howard - Excellence in Journalism award in 2002. Hoyt later served ODU as a full-time lecturer of Journalism and Professional Writing for eight years before accepting the Libraries' Engagement role. In addition to leading the Department of Engagement, she serves on committees both on and off campus and contributes to [HigherEdJobs](#) as a freelance writer.

Dr. Hoyt earned her doctorate degree in Educational Policy, Planning and Leadership from William & Mary, her MA in English from ODU, and her BA in Journalism from the University of Texas at Tyler.

FEATURED SERVICE

The ePortfolio Studio

Located on the first floor of Perry Library, the ePortfolio Studio is a collaborative space where students can meet with ePortfolio assistants to help with various digital assignments.

eP assistants serve as peer mentors trained to support students as they develop ePortfolios for various contexts. Students can ask specific questions or get general feedback on the design, content, or functionality of their ePortfolios. eP assistants help students with:

- working with ePortfolio programs such as Google Drive, Google Sites, Wis, and Wordpress, and/or
- developing multimedia elements for ePortfolios such as images, videos, and audio elements.

Students may schedule appointments with ePortfolio assistants online or by visiting the ePortfolio Studio during normal operating hours.

To learn more about the ePortfolio Studio and services provided by eP Assistants, please contact Elle Tyson at Ityson@odu.edu. For more information about ePortfolio & Digital Initiatives, please contact Megan Mize at mmize@odu.edu.

2023-2024

49

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

65

CLASS VISITS

826

APPOINTMENTS



ELLE TYSON

Assistant Director, ePortfolio & Digital Initiatives
Office of Academic Innovation & Learning Support



OUR MISSION

Housed inside the Student Success Center, Academic Success Initiatives (ASI) empowers learners to thrive academically, personally, and professionally. Academic Success Initiatives provides an inclusive environment dedicated to building authentic relationships and community, fostering meaningful learning experiences, and collaborating with learners as they pursue their passion and purpose.

In keeping with the mission of the University, Academic Success Initiatives advocates for all Monarchs and actively supports their pursuit of excellence at ODU and beyond.



MARISSA A. JIMENEZ

Executive Director for the Office of Academic Innovation & Learning Support and the Operations Coordinator for Academic Success Initiatives

To learn more about Academic Success Initiatives or have ideas for future collaborations, please contact Marissa at mjimenez@odu.edu



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