Last fall, Old Dominion University launched the “Roar” campaign, an expression of the university’s commitment to the dynamic and growing Hampton Roads community. “It exudes our unabashed pride in all that Hampton Roads has to offer and our dedication to improving individual lives, our community and the regional economy,” said Jennifer M. Collins, assistant vice president for marketing and communications. Featuring a fearsome and proud African lion, the campaign can be seen on television and outdoor billboards, as well as in print and online. “The reaction from the community – both those connected with Old Dominion and those not – has been very strong and positive,” Collins added. “Hampton Roads is our pride, and it’s increasingly clear that Old Dominion is the community’s pride as well.” Learn more about Old Dominion’s work in the region and watch the commercials at roar.odu.edu.
BECAUSE HAMPTON ROADS IS OUR PRIDE

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From the Editor

B rigid Franklin Barrineau ‘08 of Norfolk sent a fact-filled letter urging me to publish an article in Monarch magazine about the remarkable military career of her father, Paul Franklin ’81. A shorter note from Matthew Reeves ’02 of Suffolk suggested that Monarch begin using end-of-story icons to eliminate any confusion about whether or not there is more of an article on the next page.

These are two examples of the many communications that arrive at my desk each year, especially during the month after a Monarch is distributed. I am always pleased to get them.

Anyone who edits a publication likes to hear from the people who take time to read it. Even a complaint can include useful advice, and all responses, good and not so good, can assure an editor that he or she has an attentive audience.

So keep those letters and emails and phone calls coming. And, by the way, I have a Paul Franklin article on my futures list, and you’ll see in this issue that icons now designate the ends of articles.

I should note that some of the readers’ missives coming my way would be better directed to our ODU team in Alumni Relations. For example, if you want to update your contact information, go to www.odu.edu/alumni/contact-update. Also, you can submit classnotes directly to the Lion’s Den online connection to the ODU Alumni Association. Get more information about the Lion’s Den at www.odualumni.org.

When you want to contact me directly, and this includes letters you wish to submit for publication, use my email address of jraper@odu.edu or send land mail to Monarch magazine at 100 Koch Hall, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va. 23529. My telephone number is 757-683-5585.

-Jim Raper
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LETTERS

Loved the Lighthouse Article
What a great article of the Middle Ground Lighthouse, located right off the shore of ODU! (“To the Lighthouse,” Fall 2013) I graduated from ODU in 1979 and lived in Hampton Roads for over 30 years, and never knew this unique lighthouse existed. Diane Dougherty did a great job detailing the reclamation project and describing the trip to the lighthouse. I look forward to future issues of the Monarch.

Rich Babbit ’79
Richmond, Va.

Outstanding 50th Reunion
We wish to extend our deepest appreciation for the most wonderful 50th Reunion Week anyone could experience. Our gratitude especially goes to the outstanding Alumni Office staff and all their attention to details and to us, both individually and collectively. Thank you for the Golden Pride medals and beautiful keepsake container, our great alumni dinner, alumni brunch and tailgate fare. The corsage and boutonniere were beautiful and so were the parade and festivities.

We feel very fortunate that Old Dominion University is a part of our lives, along with the prestigious faculty and the lifelong friendships we made while attending. The continued growth and development of the university, its staff, its academic facilities, its magnificent band, its athletic teams and cheering squad, create an excellent sense of student and community spirit. The university inspires all of us graduates and makes us very proud.

Crystal Dillon Perry ’63
Raymond O. Perry ’63
Richmond, Va.

Memories of Bud’s
It was so much fun to see our picture from 1954 sitting with friends in Bud’s. We spent many hours sitting in those booths playing cards. Thanks for stirring up good memories (Then & Now, “Campus Dining – especially the discussion of Bud’s.”) As a freshman in 1965, my first steps into Bud’s were taken with trepidation and angst. In many ways, I still felt like a high school kid, and I knew this was where everyone hung out. But I wanted to hang out, too, so I finally ventured in wearing my John Meyer skirt and Country Shirt blouse. After doing so, I never wanted to leave.

My freshman year was one of the best years of my life. Sitting in Bud’s eating grilled cheese sandwiches, playing 1,000 hands of Setback, listening to “When a Man Loves a Woman” by Percy Sledge and “Positively Fourth Street” by Bob Dylan. Bud’s was where I went to celebrate the opening of my small, white envelope to learn that I had been invited to pledge Pi Beta Phi. Did I ever go to class? Oh yes. I managed to do that, too. Most of the time.

When Webb Center opened in 1966, we reluctantly began to eat our meals in the sprawling cafeteria. It was much larger and more modern than Bud’s, and it served our purposes just fine. But it didn’t have the charm or mystique of Bud’s. I missed the intimacy of Bud’s. Or maybe I just missed the tension and excitement of being a college freshman. Now I was a veteran—a sophomore. And, sadly, Bud’s was in my rearview mirror.

Those were such great years. My thanks to Steve Daniel for reminding me, and many others I’m sure, of those memorable days in Bud’s.

Mary Ann Callahan Collins ’70
Chesapeake

Keep Featuring History
Having been at ODU for a very long time, I have seen many of our publications. In recent years, the Monarch magazine has flourished into a top-notch read with which few institutions can compete. The photography is outstanding and the writing is engaging. The topic selections are relevant and appeal to young and old alumni alike. I must admit that I am as hooked on the quick delivery of information via electronic and social media as everyone else. However, it is always a welcome sight to have this slick magazine appear in my mailbox, because I know there’s a good, relaxing read ahead.

I particularly enjoy the articles that document Old Dominion’s social traditions and history, as so much of it remains to be captured. While I have no memories of Bud’s, I enjoyed the way the article contrasted today’s campus food experience.

Additionally, the highlighting of A. H. Foreman and his contributions is especially thought-provoking as we consider building a new stadium. Keep featuring the history as it demonstrates our connections to the past and our continued progress!

Ann Dennis (M.E. ’87)
Norfolk

Thanks for the Review
Thanks for taking the time and effort to review my book, “Crossing Purgatory,” in Monarch (Books, Fall 2013). I was expecting something like a Classnotes blurb and received much, much more.

Gary Schneider (M.A. ’72)
Denver, Colo.

To send a letter to the editor, you may contact us via email, jrapper@odu.edu; fax, 757-683-5501; or by regular mail, Editor, Monarch magazine, 100 Koch Hall, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529.

You may reach us by phone at:
Alumni Association and Alumni Relations
Office: 757-683-3097 or 888-ODU-3435
Monarch magazine: 757-683-5585
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From the President
An ‘Ambitious’ Master Plan

Out with the old and in with the new, the saying goes. As such, 2014 began a new era for Old Dominion University as the Board of Visitors unanimously endorsed a bold and entrepreneurial Campus Master Plan at its December meeting (see 49th & Hampton, page 10-11).

The plan, which took nearly a year to complete, will guide the university’s physical growth for the next two decades, matching and supporting the institution’s ambitious goals for academics, research and student life.

While every such undertaking has its challenges, developing Old Dominion’s campus master plan was particularly arduous in that our substantial need for more classroom, research and programmatic space was constrained by our desire to grow only within the existing university footprint.

What emerged is an inspiring road map, charting a course from today’s campus to the future physical embodiment of the innovative and leading-edge institution Old Dominion University has become.

The plan provides 875,000 square feet for educational programs; 374,000 square feet for auxiliary student support programs; 4,600 new beds; and 3,600 new parking spaces, all while preserving green spaces and improving pedestrian friendliness.

In developing the master plan, the university paid careful attention to the overall parking and transportation needs. The plan moves the majority of parking to the Hampton Boulevard corridor, and incorporates a multi-modal transportation mall to shuttle students from those parking areas into the center part of campus. Additionally, two pedestrian bridges will cross Hampton Boulevard.

As enrollment grows and the need for additional instructional space increases, the university will look to its regional higher education centers. The master plan identifies opportunities for additional space at the Tri-Cities Center in Portsmouth and an additional five academic buildings at the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center. The university’s new College of Professional Studies and Continuing Education will be housed there, along with other programs that can be self-contained on that campus.

The most talked-about component of the plan is a new football stadium along the Elizabeth River on the west side of campus. Much work still needs to be done to determine the right size of the stadium and the university is working with the surrounding neighborhood civic leagues to ensure a comprehensive approach. The end result will preserve the professional and positive game-day experience that fans and neighbors expect from Old Dominion.

Just behind the stadium, a new conference center will be built to support the university’s growing reputation as a destination for professional development and other similar activities. And a new alumni center next to it will offer returning Monarchs a picturesque place to gather, reunite and enjoy their Old Dominion experiences, old and new.

We were fortunate to have Chief Operating Officer David F. Harnage, who not only played a significant role in Old Dominion’s first master plan, but who also brought a wealth of expertise from many years in private practice master plan development, to lead the effort. David meticulously researched and solicited feedback from all stakeholders – he gave more than 30 presentations both on and off campus – as he crafted the plan. I even saw him take pencil to sketching paper on more than one occasion in an effort to get it right.

Recently, the Virginian-Pilot editorialized, “In the past 12 months, Old Dominion University has laid the groundwork for smart, focused growth. That means the university has made smart, focused plans for its future.”

Undeniably, that future is bold and bright.

–John R. Broderick, President
Old Dominion University
Political Scientist Steve Yetiv Contributes More Analysis of U.S. Foreign Policy

Steve A. Yetiv, Old Dominion’s Louis I. Jaffe Professor of political science and international studies (See “Award-winning Political Scientist,” Fall 2012), was busy in 2013 adding to his stack of publications about U.S. policymaking.

The highlight of Yetiv’s year was the publication of his seventh book, “National Security through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy” (Johns Hopkins University Press). A close second on his 2013 accomplishments list was reaching a total of 250 media commentaries contributed in his career to publications such as The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Christian Science Monitor.

Yetiv, a worldwide expert on issues surrounding global petroleum supply and security, examines in his latest book how mental errors of cognitive biases – such as overconfidence – undermine good decision making. Tracing five U.S. national security episodes – the 1979 Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan; the Iran-Contra affair; the rise of al-Qaeda, leading to the 9/11 attacks; the 2003 U.S. – led invasion of Iraq; and the development of U.S. energy policy – Yetiv reveals how a dozen cognitive biases have been more influential in impacting U.S. national security than commonly believed or understood. And he offers a new perspective on how America got involved in the Middle East, due to its own cognitive biases and those of others, and how they affected outcomes over time.

Said one reviewer: “Steve Yetiv is an expert in American foreign policy, security studies, and interdisciplinary approaches toward international politics. He is the ideal person to write this particular book, which applies political psychology to the study of decision processes.”

Systems Engineering Building, Arts Complex Are Almost Completed

Two new building projects under way on campus are scheduled to be completed this spring. They are the arts complex at 47th Street and Monarch Way in University Village (See “Arts in the Village,” Fall 2012) and the Systems Research and Academics Building facing Perry Library (See “Groundbreaking Kicks Off Engineering College’s 50th Anniversary Celebrations,” Winter 2013).

The main art building that fronts on Monarch Way has a visually striking circular tower at its northern end. Behind it is an arts studio building. The complex will bring together fine, studio and theatre arts to promote collaborations and creativity. The buildings’ offices, classrooms and studios will serve art history, graphic design, fibers, painting and drawing. The main building will also house the Jean Outland Chrysler Library, which is moving there from Norfolk’s Chrysler Museum of Art, and the university’s Elise N. Hofheimer Art Library, which has been in the Diehn Center for the Performing Arts.

Engineering faculty and students will benefit from the new hands-on laboratories and student collaborative spaces in the Systems Research building. Specific additions include a new clean room, lasers lab, biomedical dry labs, wet lab, plasma science lab, maglev control lab, space missions lab, micro fluidics lab and dynamic environment simulation lab. Four large student projects studios, student collaboration spaces and the dean’s offices will be located in the new facility.

Announcements and updates about campus building projects can be seen on the Design and Construction page of the odu.edu website.
As long as there have been college classes, there have been students giving excuses to their professors — some legitimate, of course — but others, shall we say, carefully contrived to test the limits of mercy and credibility of their learned mentors. The inspiration for this column came from none other than Bill Whitehurst, ODU’s Kaufman Lecturer in Public Affairs, who returned to teaching at the university in 1987 after 19 years in Congress.

In his nearly two decades in the U.S. House of Representatives, “Dr. Bill” no doubt was witness to occasional pleas, pretexts and cover-ups — in congressional hearings as well as from colleagues on both sides of the aisle. And, since returning to the classroom (Whitehurst previously taught history, from 1950 to 1963, and served as dean of students from 1963–68), he has also heard his share of excuses from students who either missed or arrived late for his history and political science classes. He started writing them down a few years ago.

Among those on Whitehurst’s list:

“I overslept.” (The student arrived 30 minutes late for a 1 p.m. class.)

“My skateboard broke.”

“I caught a slow elevator.”

For anyone who has ridden in the Batten Arts and Letters Building elevators, that last one at least had some basis in truth.

Have student excuses changed over time? Since the introduction of the computer and the advent of email, the old “dog ate my homework” excuse has been relegated to the annals of history. But have excuses changed in other ways?

“I haven’t reflected on this matter too much over the years, but now that I think about it, I do believe there’s been a sea change in student excuses,” says Mike Pearson, University Professor of creative writing. “By my recollection, students used to concoct good old-fashioned lies when they didn’t hand in an assignment — ‘My aunt was in the hospital’; ‘I had the flu’; etc. Now, the
excuses are either more media oriented (‘My computer crashed when my boyfriend sat on it’) or, in the spirit of Facebook admissions of ‘truth,’ students simply say they didn’t do it (‘I have to admit I’ve been lame and just didn’t get around to the reading’).

“What has happened to good old-fashioned creative lies? I think Facebook has given birth to an entire generation of people who reveal every nuance of their daily activities. Why not admit it to the professor, I think the theory goes, it’s probably on Facebook anyway,’ Pearson said.

“Four students ... missed an exam because they had a flat tire. The professor agreed to have them make up the exam. There was only one question on the exam: Which tire?”

-Lynn Waltz, visiting assistant professor of English

Sebastian Kuhn, professor of physics, expresses similar thoughts on the matter. “What I found to be the biggest change over the years is that students simply stopped making any excuses. In the olden days, they may have told me a sorry story about how their car broke down or they had to go to the emergency room, or any number of other unhappy experiences (and of course they may have been telling the truth!). These days, students with late homework may just decide to skip the class period when the homework is due (adding insult to injury) and then, if I’m ‘lucky,’ I will find the homework instead crumpled underneath my office door or in my mailbox – from hours to days late. No explanation, no comment – nothing.”

A death in the family is a timeless excuse in the hallowed halls of learning. For some older (jaded?) professors, this type of excuse might resurrect memories of the old “M*A*S*H” episode where Cpl. Klinger, ever looking for ways to leave his Army posting in Korea, reads to Col. Potter a letter from his mother saying that his father is dying. “The father dying, right?” Potter asks in reply, and then extracts from a file a stack of papers, which he leafs through: “Father dying last year. Mother dying last year. Mother and father dying. Mother, father and older sister dying. Mother dying and older sister pregnant. Younger sister dying and mother pregnant. Younger sister pregnant and older sister dying. Here’s an oldie but a goodie: Half of the family dying, other half pregnant.”

Notes Janet Bing, longtime professor of linguistics in the English department: “As we all know, term papers are a leading cause for the deaths of students’ grandmothers.”

Adds Beth Backes, lecturer of linguistics and composition: “Ah yes, dead grandmother syndrome. Poor ladies drop like flies every semester. Don’t you wonder why the grandpas don’t?”

Suki Tooley, an adjunct in the English department, also weighed in on this one: “I had a student write the following as an excuse for her late work: ‘I have had a lot of major deaths in my family this week.’ Yikes.”

Farideh Dayanim Goldin, who directs ODU’s Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Understanding and teaches English, says that “other than people – grandparents, best friends – dying all over the place,” or the varied menu of transportation-related excuses (from “My car broke down on the way to school” to “It was raining and I was afraid that the tunnel would get flooded”), many of the excuses she hears have to do with computer and/or Internet problems and online exams: “The electricity went out and I couldn’t get back on Blackboard”; “A computer virus destroyed all my papers and exams”; “My computer was stolen.”

Nancy Wade, who taught biology for more than 40 years before retiring in 2007, said the most frequent excuse she heard for missed tests had to do with a flat tire. “Most of the students who missed tests did not live on campus,” she said, but added the following observation: “With more students living on campus and better (puncture-resistant) tires, this excuse is outdated.”

Lynn Waltz, visiting assistant professor of English/communication, when asked to reflect on the subject of student excuses, shared the following: “My first thought is the classic story (campus myth?) about the four students who missed an exam because they had a flat tire. The professor agreed to have them make up the exam. There was only one question on the exam: Which tire?”

Here are some “favorites” from other ODU faculty members.

From Jan Meyer, an adjunct in the English department: “I had a student tell me she had to go to the hospital because her sister had a baby. It was an emergency delivery. When I asked for the sister’s room number, she couldn’t remember. I asked for the cell, and she said her sister was already home. Needless to say, I did not accept the excuse.”

From Anne Wilson Maclin Gregory, an adjunct in the English department: “I think the best one I ever got was from a student who showed up the last week of class wanting to catch up for an entire semester, claiming that over Thanksgiving break she had been introduced to the man her parents had arranged for her to marry, and that she hadn’t liked him. She said that this had upset her too much to come to class or write any papers. I said, ‘Well, if you didn’t meet him until Thanksgiving, why didn’t you do the two papers that were due before that?’ ”

From Tesh Benjamin, adjunct instructor of English: “I had a student tell me that he didn’t have his essay ready because he had to go to a Jimmy Buffett concert.”

I don’t know how Benjamin dealt with that one, but it seems that the student who proffered such an excuse must have been suffering from impaired judgment. Perhaps too much time spent wasting away in Margartaville and not enough time doing research at the library.
A 20-year Campus Master Plan that calls for the construction of new academic and administrative space, conference center, sports facilities and parking garages was approved unanimously in December by the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors. Chief Operating Officer David Harnage, creator of the plan, told the board that the document reflects input from individuals and groups both on and off campus, including three area civic leagues. In all, Harnage said he made more than 30 public presentations about the plan.

Since he first presented the proposed plan to the board in the fall, a few adjustments were made, based on feedback collected from the public presentations, which Harnage outlined at the meeting. They include adding a building to address the needs of the College of Arts and Letters, to be located between Constant Hall and Dragas Hall; adding a Health Sciences building to allow for growth in that college; adding an Engineering and Technology building; and moving a proposed new Alumni Center to the planned Conference Center site at the far west end of campus.

The plan also calls for the razing of Koch Hall and constructing a new administrative building at the southeast corner of Hampton Boulevard and 43rd Street, and the razing of the Powhatan Apartments and building a new football stadium on that site. As noted in the plan, the current football stadium cannot be amended to meet program requirements in its current location, for a number of reasons it cites.

The plan provides for the construction of new campus housing in various locations; the addition of a new dining facility; additional construction at regional higher education centers; and the replacement of Webb Center with a new student union. The plan envisions 4,600 new beds in campus housing, 3,600 new parking spaces, raised walkways over Hampton Boulevard and preservation/enhancement of green spaces.

Harnage, who has developed master plans at other institutions, said this was “the most complicated plan” he has worked on, due primarily to the constraints of staying within the university’s existing boundaries. He noted that he heard positive comments along the way from stakeholders who applauded the university’s commitment to “stay within the existing campus footprint.”

President John R. Broderick, saying that the plan is “so much more than about a football stadium,” pointed out that the plan goes a long way to enhance ODU’s needs in making additions and improvements to its academic, residential and student success space.
You never know who’ll show up on the Old Dominion campus. Kelly Carlson became an international celebrity playing the seductress Kimber Henry on the FX network drama “Nip/Tuck,” and with a little help from members of the ODU Department of Communication and Theatre Arts, she may build on that celebrity soon.

Carlson was in Hampton Roads visiting friends late last year when she found that she needed a studio where she could videotape an audition for a currently untitled television project planned by the creators of “Nip/Tuck.”

One of her friends knows John Toomey, who is chair of ODU’s music department, and it was Toomey who put Carlson in touch with Stephen Pullen, chair of communication and theatre arts. Pullen and David Mallin, an ODU assistant professor who is an American Film Institute-trained cinematographer, were quick to volunteer their help. Carlson also volunteered to be a guest lecturer for one of Mallin’s film classes.

Pullen, who has worked as an independent screenwriter and producer in Los Angeles and who learned the business from teachers such as Stephen Spielberg, George Lucas and Robert Zemeckis during his M.F.A. program at the University of Southern California, served as Carlson’s “reader” while taping four audition scenes. “I was feeding her lines. In one segment I was a cop and her husband, in another I was her daughter and sister,” he said. “It went very well.”

“Nip/Tuck” introduced Carlson in the guest role of aspiring model Kimber Henry during the first season in 2003. The character developed into a full-time cast role. Carlson stayed through the program’s final season in 2010.

Pullen said it is common for actors to tape auditions when they can’t be in Los Angeles or New York in person. “In those cases, the actor usually finds a local casting agency that has video production facilities. But Kelly couldn’t find one in this area and that is how she came to contact us.”

ODU’s Goode Theatre soundstage opened in 2012 with state-of-the-art filmmaking facilities and equipment, so Pullen and Mallin were able to offer Carlson “high-quality assistance,” according to Pullen. “She was impressed with the facilities.”

Pullen was also impressed by Carlson. “If you’ve seen episodes of ‘Nip/Tuck,’ you know that the show has a salacious side and is sometimes a bit ‘over the top,’ and her character is certainly in line with that. So I didn’t know what to expect of her, whether or not she would be difficult to work with. But she was a delight and a real professional in every way.”

Carlson began her acting career on stage and Pullen said her training was evident in the scenes that Mallin shot. “So many of the people you see on television shows are there because of their looks, or some reason other than their acting ability. Not her. Her work is serious and nuanced.”

For the ODU film students, Carlson provided “a glimpse into the world of Hollywood,” Pullen said. “She was candid about what it’s like on a film set. She told stories about working on the set of ‘Nip/Tuck’ and described it as fun and challenging.” Carlson has appeared recently in multiple TV series including “Ghostfacers,” “Supernatural,” “Castle” and “Melrose Place,” as well as the films, “The Marine” and “Jimmy.”
A new face on campus for the 2013-14 school year is retired U.S. Navy Vice Adm. David Architzel, who was named military affairs director at Old Dominion University, succeeding Dick Whalen. Whalen served almost two decades in the post after he retired from the Navy as a captain.

"Vice Admiral David Architzel brings to ODU a breadth of military knowledge and real-world experience that will be of great benefit to the university’s service-affiliated students, while continuing our long-standing tradition of strong partnerships within the military communities," said David Harnage, ODU’s chief operating officer, who announced the appointment.

As military affairs director, Architzel serves as ODU’s liaison with the Department of Defense, military installations and service personnel, while promoting the university and its academic programs to the military community. His duties include creating awareness of ODU programs and services throughout the defense establishment; advising university leadership on implications of DOD policies; identifying external funding, grants and contracts; representing the university at military events and programs; pursuing DOD support for instructional and research programs; and coordinating on-campus ROTC units.

Architzel retired in September 2012 after more than 40 years of naval service. Most recently he was commander of Naval Air Systems Command headquartered in Patuxent River, Md., a position he assumed in 2010 after serving as the principal military deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition).

As a career naval aviator, Architzel accumulated more than 5,000 flight hours in more than 30 aircraft types in the fleet and as a test pilot at Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

Architzel is a New York native who earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1973 and later a master’s degree in aeronautical systems from the University of West Florida.

Decorations Architzel has received include two Navy Distinguished Service Medals, the Defense Superior Service Medal, four Legions of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various service-related awards and campaign ribbons.

With about 23 percent of its student population consisting of active duty service members, veterans or dependents, ODU has forged strong ties with the military that extend from the Hampton Roads region to the international community. ODU has been named a top “Military-Friendly School” by G.I. Jobs magazine for the last four consecutive years and recently was awarded accreditation by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for its Graduate Program in International Studies - the first time a civilian academic institution has received the designation.

Director of Military Affairs
David Architzel

A packed house at Webb Center in October welcomed a “life-sized” bronze version of mascot Big Blue to the Old Dominion campus. The statue, the work of Virginia Beach sculptor Richard Stravitz, was conceived by members of ODU’s Student Government Association (SGA).

Now that the bronze Big Blue stands sentry over Webb Center, looking out on Kaufman Mall, SGA leaders announced a new tradition: Each matriculating student will have a picture taken with the bronze Big Blue. Throughout their Monarch journey, ODU students are encouraged to revisit the statue and rub the statue’s belly to bring wealth, good luck and prosperity. Near graduation, students will again be photographed with bronze Big Blue as part of commencement celebrations.

“This is a very exciting day for Old Dominion University students, faculty, staff and alumni to be able to see Big Blue immortalized,” said President John R. Broderick. He invited the audience to be among the first to kick off the tradition by taking a picture with the statue and touching it for luck.

Mascot Big Blue has become an absolute star through his playful antics at football and basketball games and many other events around campus. In January 2011, after a frenzied few weeks of online voting, ODU fans helped secure Big Blue’s selection as Capital One Mascot of the Year; Blue received nearly 2 million votes in the competition against 15 other mascots, from schools such as the University of Oregon and Ohio State.

The idea for a statue came about in 2012 after outgoing SGA President Luis Ferreira and Vice President Fred Tugas toured the student union at Ohio State, where a statue of the OSU mascot, Brutus, is prominently displayed.
It was the summer they’ll never forget. Old Dominion University graduate students Isabel Balk and Iva Stoyneva had unique “how I spent my summer vacation” experiences in 2013 that left them exhilarated, and never prouder of their home countries. Brazil and Bulgaria were two of several countries that saw giant public demonstrations about government corruption and economic inequality during an activist summer around the world. And the two ODU graduate students got swept up in the passion of the peaceful protests. Balk, a Ph.D. student in experimental psychology, working on transportation psychology under Professor Bryan Porter, returned home to Brazil to spend three weeks gathering data for her dissertation.

By the time Balk arrived in June, protests had already started. The final straw for Brazilian citizens was a proposed 20-cent hike in bus rates, seen as an attack on the working class. “I left my luggage in a friend’s car and literally went straight to the streets,” she said.

Stoyneva, a master’s student in lifespan and digital communication in the College of Arts and Letters, started following Bulgaria’s activist movement during the school year. Things reached their tipping point in a dispute over electric rates charged by the government-connected company with a monopoly over power generation and distribution.

In the spring, the government resigned, but the new coalition government proved to be worse. And despite demands from the citizenry, the new prime minister and his cabinet refused to leave office. So Stoyneva spent her summer at home — which she intended to spend collecting data for a health communication master’s thesis under Tom Socha, ODU professor of communication — traveling to the Bulgarian capital Sofia for increasingly boisterous protests.

“I think the experience of being able to support this movement, and being a part of it, it’s just a once-in-a-lifetime experience. You feel like part of a collective. I’ve never
felt more Bulgarian in my life than when I was there,” Stoyneva said.
Balk is no radical. The 26-year-old has spent her young career in professional schooling in the hope of being a college professor when she’s finished. Pictures from friends, however, showing police in full riot gear, and protests teetering on the brink of violence, emboldened her to participate.

“I had a friend who was there … (for) … the bus fare protest in Sao Paolo,” Balk said. “The pictures he took were like, ‘What?’ It could have been me. So I think it was this sympathetic feeling. These were my friends, not just a bunch of people with nothing to do who were complaining.”

In fact, images of the police heavy-handedness at the outset of the protests — including a newspaper photographer shot in the eye by a police rubber bullet — only added to the protesters’ determination to bring about peaceful change.

“It wasn’t only young people. It was everybody. I saw by my side traditional families with a son and daughter, with paint on their faces, and balloons in their hands.”

Stoyneva said the activism afforded an opportunity to see in real life the theories she learned in her ODU master’s program.
The deposed Bulgarian government attempted to control the media coverage, but protesters got around the media filter by organizing through social media, Stoyneva said.

“Throughout the entire experience, I was so thankful that I’d taken … Dr. (Avi) Santo’s digital communication class, and Dr. (Dylan) Wittkower’s political philosophy and social media class. I had such a better understanding of what was happening.”

Like Balk, Stoyneva was also thrilled to see her fellow Bulgarians take to the streets in a completely peaceful fashion. “My friends have really high moral and ethical grounds. No matter how (angry) they got, they would not start anything violent.”

Balk said she read about populist protests in the 1970s and ‘80s that brought about social change in Brazil, which has helped the country become more successful and prosperous. “I thought to myself, ‘I’m never going to make history, be part of history.’ This is history we’re making right now. My kids, if I have them, will study this in their history books.”

Back in Norfolk, the two ODU graduate students find themselves far more connected to home, and feeling a tiny bit left out as the action continues there.

“It still stays informed, still participate in discussions, especially through social media. Sometimes I feel like I have split personality disorder. I’m like there, and here. I have to compartmentalize,” Stoyneva said.

Balk has made it her mission to inform people in the U.S. about the protests in Brazil, about how they were far more than the portrayal by foreign media as a fight over bus fares.

“Everyone I talked to has realized what a complex situation this is. I feel like the American stereotype is that people don’t care about the rest of the world. I didn’t find that for a second. Everyone has been interested.”

-Brendan O’Hallarn

Miranda Smith may have completed only a few credits of coursework as a freshman at Old Dominion University, but no one – especially not Richard Zimmerman, one of ODU’s most experienced oceanography professors – would say that she’s just beginning her higher education.

During her four years at Ocean Lakes High School in Virginia Beach, Smith was part of the Ocean Lakes Math and Science Academy sponsored by ODU. She was a research intern with Zimmerman and his Biooptical Research Group in the summer of 2012 and returned as a paid summer intern in 2013.

A senior thesis she wrote at Ocean Lakes on how climate change is affecting eelgrass ecosystem affixed with a $1 million project that Zimmerman is leading on the effect that ocean acidification, specifically, is having on eelgrasses. Smith will be listed as a co-author on a research paper Zimmerman’s team is currently preparing, and probably on another paper they will submit in 2014, he added.

The Ocean Lakes Academy exposes students to a more rigorous curriculum, especially in math and science. The program won a Model Partnership Award for ODU in 2013 from Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

A dozen students from the academy conducted research with and/or were mentored by ODU faculty members last summer. The mentors, other than Zimmerman and his oceanography collaborator Victoria Hill, included John Cooper and Nancy Xu in chemistry; Larry Weinstein in physics; Stephen Beebe in bioelectronics; Cynthia Jones, Hank Liao and James Davies in oceanography; Dean Krusienski in electrical and computer engineering; and Robert Ash in mechanical and aerospace engineering.

Ravi Joshi, the ODU University Professor and Eminent Scholar in electrical and computer engineering who directs the university’s participation in the academy, said eight Ocean Lakes academy graduates began attending ODU in the fall of 2013.

To say that Zimmerman is sold on the Ocean Lakes academy project would be an understatement. “Our experience hosting students from the academy has been absolutely fantastic,” he said.

Zimmerman and his research team spent a full summer working at an aqua-farm erected on Virginia Aquarium and Science Center property in Virginia Beach, and they had Smith and another Ocean Lakes academy student, Tiffany Cedeno, currently a high school senior, as helpers. Smith is focusing on computer science at ODU.
A few years ago the northeast shore of Colley Bay, behind the Larchmont Elementary School playing fields and near Old Dominion University’s Rogers Hall housing, was an ugly line of concrete and asphalt riprap interrupted here and there by trees with severely eroded root bases. Today the scene is much improved, and students from ODU’s Department of Biological Sciences are among the volunteers who made it happen.

The work to restore this stretch of Lafayette River estuary shore to natural wetlands is more than a beautification project, says Kevin Du Bois, a wetland scientist who works for the city of Norfolk’s Bureau of Environmental Services. A natural wetland, in place of rocks and chunks of concrete, can nourish and provide nurseries for wildlife and filter out pollutants. The gradual slope and permeability of wetlands can also prevent erosion and keep water from encroaching inland, helping relieve one of the threats from sea level rise.

To accomplish this, the riprap rubble and shoreline trees
and bushes were removed and sand was brought in to form a narrow beach. Offshore, near the point of low mean water, rock sills and coir logs (constructed from biodegradable material such as coconut fibers), were placed parallel to the shore to keep the sand in place and give new marsh grasses a chance to become established.

Three ODU biology graduate students, Todd Egerton, Matthew Semcheski and Matthew Muller, joined the Colley Bay shoreline restoration in 2009 and recruited ODU graduate students to help them on the north side of the bay, while other restoration volunteers tackled a similar area on the opposite shoreline. This phase was completed in June 2010.

The ODU Marine Biology Student Association, led by Ashley Bunch, a senior, organized restoration volunteers to follow that effort in fall 2012 and spring 2013. MBSA undergraduates dug up sparse patches of Spartina grasses at the Colley Bay site ahead of the contractors with heavy equipment. Those valuable grasses were transplanted at other restoration sites. Once the shoreline was prepared, students planted substantial stands of grasses at Colley Bay.

“Students were very eager to help, even if it meant giving up time on their Saturdays. There is no better feeling than to see a restoration site transform from start to finish and to know that we did it as a team,” Bunch said.

Today, the restored wetland provides a total of 700 linear feet of gradually sloping shoreline. New trees have been planted, as well, but far enough back from the water so they will not shade the wetland, which would stunt the growth of marsh grass.

“It’s a great success story for our partners – Lafayette Wetlands Partnership, Elizabeth River Project, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Highland Park Civic League, ODU biology graduate students and the undergraduate Marine Biology Student Association, local schools, citizens, everyone,” Du Bois said.

“The synergy of these groups working together was a great learning experience for us and has been a springboard to continue a positive impact on the Lafayette beyond Colley Bay,” said Muller, who received a M.S. in biology from ODU in 2010 and is now working on a master’s in business administration. Egerton received a Ph.D. in ecological sciences from ODU last spring and is now an adjunct professor in the university’s Department of Biological Sciences. Semcheski is nearing completion of his doctorate in ecological sciences.

The three are also active in maintaining a citizen-based environmental monitoring network: Eyes on the River (see Facebook page of that name). Initially begun as a way for residents to report harmful algal blooms in the Lafayette River to ODU’s Phytoplankton Analysis Laboratory, the network now has more than 100 members who report all aspects of river condition and health, including flooding, pollution, fishing reports and restoration efforts.

Fred Dobbs, a professor in the Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at ODU, has seen the groups’ work firsthand as a wetland restoration volunteer and Colley Bay neighbor. “The reconfigured, replanted, rejuvenated shoreline is simply wonderful.”
Jason Redman, a Navy SEAL who was part of the Seaman to Admiral Program as an Old Dominion University student and who made headlines in 2007 with his determined recovery from horrible wounds sustained in Iraq, has produced a memoir, “The Trident: The Forging and Reforging of a Navy SEAL leader.” He wrote the book, which was published in fall 2013, with John R. Bruning. In September 2007, while in charge of an operation to capture an al-Qaeda leader, Lt. Redman and his assault team came under heavy machine-gun and small-arms fire and he, along with two teammates, was wounded in the ensuing firefight. Redman and his team fought their way out of the encounter, but not before he had been shot twice in the arm and once in the face.

While recovering at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Redman wrote and hung on his door a bright orange sign that became a statement and symbol for wounded warriors everywhere. It read, in part, “To all who enter here: If you are coming into this room with sorrow or to feel sorry for my wounds, go elsewhere. The wounds I received I got in a job I love, doing it for people I love, supporting the freedom of a country I deeply love.”

This sign, which now hangs in the Wounded Ward at the Bethesda medical center, gained national recognition and earned Redman an invitation to meet President George W. Bush at the White House.

Redman has undergone more than 30 surgeries in his recovery, including reconstruction of his face. He has used his experiences as a severely wounded service member and his positive attitude to motivate others and to continue to raise awareness of the sacrifices of America’s military forces and their families. This drive led him to create Wounded Wear, a nonprofit organization designed to provide clothing and clothing modifications to America’s wounded warriors, and to promote awareness throughout the country of the sacrifices that wounded service members have made.

In 2009, the Hampton Roads resident received the ODU Alumni Service Award in recognition of exemplary leadership and significant, compassionate service to community, state and nation.
partment. “He’s been my mentor my entire career,” Bouchard said of Koch. Bouchard is currently CEO and chairman of the board of Signature Group Holdings.

“Ender’s Game and Philosophy: Genocide is Child’s Play.”
Edited by D.E. Wittkower and Lucinda Rush

D.E. Wittkower, assistant professor of philosophy at Old Dominion, and Lucinda Rush, education reference librarian for the university, are the co-editors of this book, which was released in the fall about the time the movie “Ender’s Game” had its debut in the nation’s theaters.

The movie, based on the 1985 novel by Orson Scott Card, tells the story of an intergalactic war where a brilliant child, Ender Wiggin, is recruited and trained to lead his fellow soldiers into a battle that will determine the future of Earth. “Ender’s Game and Philosophy” brings together more than 30 philosophers to engage in wide-ranging discussion of the troubling, exciting and fascinating issues raised by Card’s novels and Gavin Hood’s film.

“Ayla.”
By Kelly Anne (Flynn) Blount (M.S. ’11)

“Ayla” picks up where the author’s popular young adult fantasy “Grishma” left off, in what has been dubbed the Necoh Saga series. Blount’s books are set in the world of Necoh, where the monstrous Grishma terrifies the population. Ryder, who loses his father to Grishma, embarks on a quest to eliminate the monster to save his mother, sister and a damsel in distress, Brooklyn.

Said one reviewer of the latest work of Blount, who lives in Asheville, N.C., “It’s got even more action than Grishma, as if that were possible. It’s got drama, tension and love by the bucket load.”

“Red Panthers.”
By Thomas Wells

The author, associate professor emeritus of political science and geography at Old Dominion, has written a fictional account of a conspiracy to restore communist control over the Czech Republic, and possibly over all of Eastern Europe. Wells, who taught in the Czech Republic after taking early retirement from ODU in 1989, and who now lives in Wallace, N.C., fashions a story that pits the CIA, a squad of U.S. Marines and a Czech police inspector against a murderous band of neo-communists.

“Lord Computesalot, Ruler of Aurora Bullyalis, and His Secret Quest to End Bullying.”
By Regina Davis and Carolyn Royer Spencer ’74

Davis and Spencer, who are teachers, wrote the story and Spencer contributed illustrations to this children’s book. The story, which depicts ways that adults bully each other, is designed to help children understand how bullying can be detrimental to self-esteem and self-worth.

“Cooley & Rose.”
By Terry Perrel (M.F.A. ’94)

A former Norfolk newspaper writer, Perrel sets this imaginative tale of marital hijinks in eastern Virginia as well as Hollywood. Rose, fed up with husband Cooley’s constant need for intimacy, takes off alone on Route 66 before she and Cooley confront their secrets, their shortcomings and their foolish expectations of love.

Children’s Book Makes Star Of ‘Charles the Lion Dog’

Joseph C. Daniel’s love of dogs took a new turn last fall with the publication of a children’s book, “Charles the Lion Dog.” based on the real-life canine that has become a favorite of Old Dominion Monarch fans. A former dean of ODU’s College of Sciences, Daniel, who lives in Norfolk, wrote the book. It is illustrated by award-winning artist Pamela Barcita of Chesapeake.

In the book, a boy named Daniel is the owner of Charles the Lion Dog, which he receives as a gift from his parents on his 8th birthday. As the author notes on the back cover of the book, the real owner of Charles, also named Daniel (Painter), is a professional landscape designer: “However, some of the adventures you will read about in this book actually happened, including the 911 calls from people who thought Charles was a real lion, and the amazing phenomenon of Charles becoming famous worldwide.” Painter is a longtime ODU sports fan and his daughter Natalie graduated from the university in May.

The book references Charles’ appearances at ODU basketball and football games with Monarch mascot Big Blue. “It was almost as if the mascot had a mascot,” Joe Daniel writes.

Daniel, who retired from ODU in 1994, has written two previous books on dogs, including “Glenna: Raising a Dog for Guiding Eyes for the Blind.”
Anthropologist’s Dream

Re-establishing Mattanock Town

by Jim Raper
A 70-acre parcel of mostly wooded, riverside land in Suffolk looms like a blank slate for the Nansemond Native American tribe, and for the tribe’s honorary member, Helen Rountree. An Old Dominion University professor emerita of anthropology, Rountree has studied – and championed – Native Americans in the United States for 45 years, with most of her attention paid to tribes in Virginia and Maryland. Her 11 books and dozens of articles and lectures have popularized this work. When Disney Studios was planning the animated movie “Pocahontas,” the producers tried to enlist Rountree as a consultant, but she declined.
Even at 69, she is not ready just yet to take a deserved bow and retire from her life’s calling. It’s quite possible that she has a crowning achievement yet to come, which brings us back to those 70 acres on the Nansemond River just south of Chuckatuck, about halfway between the business districts of Smithfield and Suffolk. With the gift of the land to the tribe, the city of Suffolk’s elected leaders have given the Nansemonds the opportunity to develop a settlement similar to one of the four Native American villages that the Jamestown settlers found near Chuckatuck in the early 1600s. The agreement with Suffolk allows the Nansemonds five years to show significant progress toward the goal. An extension may be possible, but Rountree does not want to count on that. She is hoping the work will proceed in due time, and that the extension will never become an issue.

To describe the project, the emerita professor uses the word “unique,” which may be understood in several ways.

The Nansemond Indian Tribal Association does not fit the common profile of a Native American tribe that has received formal recognition, financial assistance or reservation land from the federal government. The Nansemonds, as well as several other tribes such as the Mattaponi who were united under Chief Powhatan, lost almost all of their land to the Colonial settlers, and had nearly lost their traditional cultures by the beginning of the 20th century. Although the commonwealth of Virginia has now recognized the Nansemonds as a legitimate Native American tribe, federal recognition has been tied up in Washington for two decades, mainly, according to Rountree, because “a couple of Senators refuse to believe that the Virginia tribes mean it when they say they don’t want casinos.”

Rountree’s research over the years has helped the Nansemonds and other tribes in the broad Algonquin confederation close genealogical gaps created when courthouses were torched.

But for this to happen, the tribe must come up with the resources — they are seeking corporate grants currently — to make their mark on the land. If the tribe’s members can do it, they’ll be the first East Coast Native Americans to re-create and operate a historic village on their own, anthropologist-certified terms.

“That’s where I come in,” says Rountree. “But right now we have no idea how fast or slow it will go. For over four decades now, I have heard various Virginia tribes I work with say they’d like to build a replica village to show visitors. Some of them have managed a house or two. But the thought of finally seeing a truly authentic village, and especially one that’s built and run by Indian people, literally thrills me.”

(Above and at right) English settler drawings of East Coast Native Americans.
“The thought of finally seeing a truly authentic village, and especially one that’s built and run by Indian people, literally thrills me.”

–ODU PROFESSOR EMERITA HELEN ROUNTREE

during the Civil War and by Virginia’s segregationist birth records. State recordkeeping made it difficult to tell who among the “coloreds” was Native American and who was African American.

Nevertheless, the some-200 members of the current Nansemond tribal association have been able to trace their lineage back to the Nansemond tribe of the Powhatan empire, which spanned southern coastal Virginia and ranged inland nearly to Richmond. In fact, Rountree believes that all members of the Nansemond association are descended from the native woman who took the Christian name of Elizabeth and married an Englishman named John Bass in 1638. The current Nansemond chief, Barry “Big Buck” Bass, whose day job is at an asphalt plant in Chesapeake, and assistant chief, Earl “War Chief” Bass, who works for a private ship repair company, have always been certain of their lineage back to the Powhatan empire.

“The tribe’s people of today are just regular 21st-century people, working jobs, homeowners,” says Rountree, who serves as the association’s recording secretary. “Unless somebody like me comes along to help, they don’t know much about their heritage. I’ll put it like this; they don’t know more than I knew about Tudor England when I was growing up.”

So in replicating a Nansemond settlement – they plan to call it Mattanock Town after one of the original Nansemond River villages – the tribal association will gain knowledge about its past that it can share with visitors.

On a sunny Saturday last September, Rountree was at the cinderblock Lone Star Lakes Lodge, which the Nansemonds obtained along with the 70 acres of land. (The Nansemond’s tract is just a small part of the 1,000-acre Lone Star Lakes Park that the city of Suffolk owns.) Inside this small building comprising a meeting room and kitchen, Nansemond women were at long tables designing and making craftworks similar to everyday items that might have been found in Mattanock Town four centuries
ago. One of the more complex items is a wooden cradle board with a footrest, on which an infant could be placed and secured with a wrap of deerskin. “Mothers would hang the cradle boards with their babies upright from a tree branch while they worked the fields,” Rountree explains.

It is easy to imagine a modern-day child playing with a baby doll, swaddling clothes and a cradle board created by Nansemond artisans.

Designs for crafts are in thick notebooks that Rountree has brought on this Saturday, a day when the Nansemonds have invited the public to their land to learn about tribal customs. Also in the books are designs for Powhatan-era dwellings and gardens. These pages bring up another aspect of Mattanock Town that promises to be unique.

Although other replica villages in Virginia and elsewhere on the East Coast showcase Native American life about the time English settlers were arriving, Rountree says the developers have had constraints “that made it hard for their villages to be authentic.” One big constraint has been the expanse of land available for a village. Others have not had the run of 70 acres and have had to create tightly packed settlements, giving the impression that the so-called Eastern Woodland Indians, including Powhatan’s empire, lived in what Rountree calls “nucleated villages, sometimes within palisades.”

But this wasn’t the norm for a Native American tribe in coastal Virginia. Rountree’s research shows that tribes usually lived in multiple dwellings scattered over many acres, each dwelling having its own garden. “They lived dispersed. The ladies didn’t like to commute far to their work. They wanted houses near their fields,” Rountree explains. “The Nansemonds have enough land here to do it that way, and that will be unique.”

She can imagine dwellings of various sizes; the chief’s would be the largest. Most would be framed by oak saplings, with thick ends buried in the ground and the tapered ends bent over to form an arched roof support. “Lashing would be with milkweed fibers or Indian hemp. The roofs would be bark or reed mats, which have to be replaced often, whenever rain comes down on daddy.”

Of course, the Nansemonds’ vision of their settlement also would include gardens. “C-B-S,” Rountree says when asked what the Powhatan tribes ate in the 1600s: “corn, beans and squash.” Meat, mostly from deer and bear, and abundant fish and shellfish supplemented the vegetables.

“She has helped us with local customs and local history, and kept us focused on Algonquin history,” says Earl Bass, who first met Rountree in 1984 when she became the tribe’s recording secretary. “Ever since, she has been to all of our meetings, typing up the minutes, keeping audio records. She has been a blessing.”

Rountree’s research points to this 70 acres as having been the site of a Nansemond village, although she feels obliged to say that the settlements moved often in search of fertile land and nearly all of the Nansemond River waterfront near Chuckatuck probably was home for Nansemond families at some time or another in the heyday of the Powhatan empire.

This is good news for the authenticity that Rountree and the Nansemonds are looking for, but it also could have presented a problem, one that has sprung up for other potential replica villages. Parcels of land known to have been the site of Native American villages centuries ago can be barred from current uses because archaeologists – and modern-day tribes, themselves – might not want the land to be disturbed. As it happens, however, these 70 acres are part of a long, narrow tract that was mined for marl and other components of cement during the middle decades of the 20th century by the Lone Star Cement Corp. The Lone Star Lakes are essentially huge pits from which the marl was excavated. Lone Star closed the borrow pit operation in 1971 and later sold the 1,000 acres, including 12 lakes, to the city of Suffolk for use as a water source and for recreation.

“We don’t have to worry about disturbing an archaeological site, like Jamestown,” Rountree says. “This whole place was disturbed long since.”

On that Saturday in September, Rountree took a turn target shooting with bow and arrow at an exhibit presided over by Bill Gillenwaters, who is retired from Newport News Shipbuilding and is an honorary member of the tribal association. He believes he is a descendant, but he hasn’t been able to prove it, mostly, he says, “because I think my mother tried hard to suppress it.”

Gillenwaters was introduced a few years ago to flintknapping – how the heads of arrows and spears are made – by tribal member Fred Bright, a nuclear engineering technician. Since then, Gillenwaters has embraced Native American craftsmanship with a passion. He also makes bows from local hardwoods and
strings them with twisted sinew, rawhide or vegetable fibers, much like it was done 400 years ago. His bamboo arrows have flint tips and turkey feather fletching—“eagle feathers are authentic, but eagles are protected,” he explains. Moreover, he makes hickory atlatls, which seem to have been much better known in Powhatan’s day than today. Atlatls are spear-throwing shafts that essentially extend the arm of a hunter or warrior, providing more leverage to propel a spear faster and farther.

Rountree is the encyclopedic source who keeps all of the Nansemond crafts as authentic as possible, and she believes historic accuracy can be a valuable tourist draw for Mattanock Town. If all goes well with the development of the historic village, the tribal association envisions creating a campground on the property with modern conveniences for visitors. Nansemonds have been given permission in recent years to hold powwows involving representatives of dozens of Native American tribes at the Lone Star site, and this tradition will only grow in popularity as Mattanock Town is developed, Rountree says.

Historic accuracy, or the lack of it, she adds, is the reason she refused Disney’s bid to hire her as a consultant on the “Pocahontas” animated film. She also declined to consult on Terrence Malick’s “The New World” (another film about Pocahontas, who was Powhatan’s daughter). One news reporter noted Rountree’s position by writing that she has an aversion to the portrayal of Pocahontas as a “buckskin Barbie.” Today, Rountree says, simply, “Filmmakers live on a different planet from me.”

Helen C. Rountree received a bachelor’s degree in sociology and anthropology from the College of William & Mary, a master’s in anthropology from the University of Utah and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She joined Old Dominion in 1968 as an instructor and became a full professor in 1991. She retired from ODU in 1999.
Old Dominion decals label the Jefferson Lab detector components constructed by the university’s physics faculty and staff. See page 31. Photo by Chuck Thomas.
Close to 1,300 physicists, most of them from the world’s leading research universities, work on projects at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News. So it is with justifiable pride that Old Dominion University can say that its physicists have played a major role in Jefferson Lab’s successes during the facility’s 20 years of smashing atoms to probe the fundamental nature of matter.

ODU’s Norfolk campus is only a 25-minute drive from the sprawling Newport News facility, which had an original construction cost of $600 million. This proximity has clearly contributed to the synergy that the university and the lab have developed. Nevertheless, the joint efforts would never have happened if ODU had not decided in the early 1990s to invest in the lab’s future, and if the lab and its oversight agency, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), had not returned the favor by forging a formal working relationship with ODU.

The primary commitment for ODU was hiring a brilliant team of faculty members that today comprises ODU’s eight-member Experimental Nuclear and Particle Physics Research Group, five-member Theoretical Nuclear and Particle Physics Research Group, as well as the six-member core of the relatively new ODU Center for Accelerator Science.

These faculty members and about a dozen more graduate students in physics at ODU all have a stake in Jefferson Lab’s future, and especially in the DOE’s $310 million upgrade of the facility’s mile-long electron accelerator, which is due to be completed within the next seven years. The potential power of the enhanced accelerator will be doubled to 12 billion electron volts (12 GeV).

“ODU faculty, staff and students have conducted some of the most important experiments at Jefferson Lab and also produced major theoretical results relevant to our research program,” said Robert D. McKeown, deputy director for science at the lab. “They continue to be leaders in the development of the future science program with the upgraded 12 GeV facility.”
Consider: ODU physicists played a key role in producing a 65-page report that outlines just what the Jefferson Lab upgrade could mean for nuclear and particle physics research. Of the 12 scientists from around the world who were tapped to write the visionary report—“Physics Opportunities with the 12GeV Upgrade at Jefferson Lab”—two are from ODU: Jozef Dudek, an ODU associate professor of physics who is also a staff scientist at Jefferson Lab; and Lawrence Weinstein, an ODU University Professor and Eminent Scholar of physics who conducts experiments at the lab. No other university had more than one faculty member among the project authors.

The ODU Experimental Nuclear and Particle Physics Group is one of the largest and most experienced research groups working at Jefferson Lab. In addition to building major detector systems for both the original accelerator project and the new upgrade, they are leaders on a wide variety of experimental programs to explore the nature of the matter created at the so-called “Big Bang.” These ODU faculty members typically lead experiments that use about 10 percent of the lab’s beam time each year. Applied proportionately, that amounts to about $10 million of the $100 million in research that the lab performs annually.

The ODU Theoretical Nuclear and Particle Physics Group is composed of scientists who have already made significant contributions to our understanding of the fundamental structure of matter, and are poised to expand that understanding as computational and accelerator tools are improved. The researchers have high standing in the field of quantum chromodynamics (QCD), which is the fundamental theory of interactions between quarks—the basic units of matter—and the gluons that hold quarks together. Experiments planned at the upgraded Jefferson Lab are expected to help scientists fine-tune the QCD theory.

Jefferson Lab and ODU worked together to create the Center for Accelerator Science (CAS) that ODU launched in 2008 with the aim of educating the next generation of accelerator scientists. The center’s director is Jean Delayen, a former chief scientist at Jefferson Lab who also served previously as a Jefferson Lab Professor at ODU. He was awarded the United States Particle Accelerator School Prize for Achievement in Accelerator Physics in 2011 “for conceiving and developing a variety of superconducting accelerating structures and for his work with young scientists in USPAS and elsewhere.”
A recent victory for CAS was a $1.5 million grant from the DOE that will allow two of the center’s researchers, Alexander Gurevich and Delayen, to forge ahead with tests of new materials for the next generation of particle accelerators. Gurevich, who has more than 20 years of experience in theoretical investigations of superconductors under extreme conditions, is the leader of the project, which will seek to prove a theory he has developed to improve the performance and efficiency of particle accelerators. The theory involves the application of multilayered new materials onto the surface of conventional accelerator cavities.

Another example of the work at CAS is a current research project led by Lepsha Vuskovic, an ODU Eminent Scholar and University Professor of physics. A $600,000 grant from the DOE is allowing her and colleagues to test a new theory that could revolutionize the testing and maintenance of the superconducting radio frequency cavities that power particle accelerators. The team uses plasma processing to keep tabs on and eliminate surface imperfections (“bumps in the road”) that can impede an accelerator’s efficiency. Vuskovic’s co-investigators include Alexander Godunov, ODU associate professor of physics, and Svetozar Popovic, ODU research professor of physics.

ODU Has Some of the World’s Top Physicists

The American Physical Society selects only the most productive and ingenious of its members to be APS Fellows, and ODU can claim 14 of them. This is a rare distinction that can be attributed at least partly to an ODU-Jefferson Lab connection that has helped the university attract an international array of well respected physicists.

Here are the APS Fellows on the active ODU faculty who have Jefferson Lab ties:

**EXPERIMENTAL NUCLEAR AND PARTICLE PHYSICS GROUP**
- Lawrence Weinstein, Eminent Scholar and University Professor of physics
- Sebastian Kuhn, Eminent Scholar and professor of physics
- Charles Hyde, professor of physics

**THEORETICAL NUCLEAR AND PARTICLE PHYSICS GROUP**
- Anatoly Radyushkin, Eminent Scholar and professor of physics
- Rocco Schiavilla, Eminent Scholar and professor of physics
- Jay Wallace Van Orden, Eminent Scholar and professor of physics
- Ian Balitsky, professor of physics

**CENTER FOR ACCELERATOR SCIENCE**
- Jean Delayen, professor of physics and director of CAS
- Lepsha Vuskovic, Eminent Scholar and University Professor of physics
- Alexander Gurevich, professor of physics
- Geoffrey Krafft, Jefferson Lab professor of physics

“This is a very high number of APS Fellows for a university to have and demonstrates the high regard and respect of our physics faculty by their peers throughout the world,” said Chris Platsoucas, dean of the ODU College of Sciences.
You’ve probably heard about the Higgs boson, the elementary mass-conveying particle that was identified by experiments at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland. Are there any proposed experiments at the upgraded Jefferson Lab that may get worldwide attention?

Physicists at ODU who work at Jefferson Lab don’t rule out that possibility.

The lab has focused on experiments probing the fundamental structure of matter, or hadronic nuclear physics. Hadrons are composites of quarks and antiquarks and gluons held together by what is called the strong nuclear force. The protons and neutrons that form the atomic nucleus are examples of hadrons. Gluons are the mass-less particles that carry the strong force.

Answers to some baffling questions could come from JLab in the next decade, the ODU scientists say. For example, how is it that the force between two quarks becomes stronger the farther they move apart? This is just the opposite of the force holding together the nucleus and electrons of an atom and of the electromagnetic force in general. Also, what is the origin of most of the mass of the visible matter in the universe? The much-publicized Higgs boson imparts mass to quarks, but this still leaves more than 98 percent of the mass of protons unaccounted for.

The answer to the mass quandary, many scientists believe, lies with gluons and the strong force, which is a focus of ODU researchers such as Jozef Dudek, a theorist, and Charles Hyde, an experimentalist. Their research hinges on the fundamental theory of quark and gluon dynamics that is called quantum chromodynamics (QCD).

“We hope to make a number of predictions that will be experimentally tested” at the upgraded Jefferson Lab, said Dudek. “It’s a particularly exciting time to be doing these calculations.”

Added Hyde: “The visible matter of the universe is made of ordinary atoms, and the mass of these atoms is dominated by the protons and neutrons in their nuclei. These nuclei are made up of quarks and the Higgs boson particle explains the mass of these quarks. Curiously, however, the quarks contribute only 2 percent of the mass of the protons and neutrons. We seek to understand how the other 98 percent of the mass of ordinary matter is generated, and the nature of the Higgs particle will influence how we examine this question.”

Further exploration of the Higgs characteristics will be needed to determine its significance, including the nature of its interactions with other subatomic particles, whether it obeys the Standard Model of particle physics, or whether it is a completely unexpected addition to the particle list. Jefferson Lab researchers expect to be able to use findings in these areas to their advantage.
New Detector Has a Whopper of an ODU Decal

In a few years, when the $310 million energy upgrade at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News is completed and atom-smashing experiments are probing deep into the building blocks of matter, the scientists working at the lab will know who built one of the sophisticated particle detectors installed at the facility. That’s because the team of scientists and technicians from the Old Dominion University Department of Physics building this “drift chamber” are labeling the instrument’s components with what appears to be super-sized ODU bumper stickers.

“We had to have them specially made,” said physicist Lawrence Weinstein, who is leading the project. “Even on a Hummer you wouldn’t need one that big.”

Indeed, Weinstein was standing in the Nuclear and Particle Physics High Bay laboratory of the ODU Physical Sciences Building, pointing to one of the wedge-shaped components that will make up the drift chamber. It was labeled with an 8-foot-long “Old Dominion University,” its letters in a collegiate font.

Tom Hartlove, the physics department lab specialist who manages the High Bay, said he found a local printing company that laser-inked the letters onto vinyl. “Each letter was made separately and I’ve had to place them myself. But I used to be a graphic designer, and that came in handy.”

The drift chamber construction project cost about $2 million and was completed last year, well ahead of schedule, Weinstein said.

Each wedge that will make up the drift chamber might be compared to a grand piano, except most pianos have only 300 strands of wire that are struck to create music and each detector component has 5,000 strings designed to detect particles flying from a collision. The gold-plated strings – with electricity running through them – will be sensitive enough to detect the subatomic debris from the experiments. In JLab parlance, the ODU team is building the Region 2 CLAS 12 Drift Chamber in Hall B of the facility.

Weinstein also led the ODU team in the 1990s that designed and constructed part of the original CLAS detector at JLab. He worked on this latest project with ODU physics faculty members Gail Dodge, Stephen Bueltmann and Sebastian Kuhn. Postdoctoral physics fellow Robert Bennett was a day-to-day coordinator of the detector construction and doctoral student Holly Vance also contributed to the work. ☎️
Inspiring
For a quarter-century Mark Strome has been making investment decisions for himself and his clients that have proven to be exceptionally sound. Now he says it is time for him to return some favors by making a different kind of investment in the university where he had his “coming out party” in the 1970s.

The beneficiary is Old Dominion University, which awarded him a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in 1978.

As President John R. Broderick announced late last year, Strome, his wife, Tammy, and their Strome Family Foundation have agreed to give $11 million to ODU in support of a new, multipronged program to nurture business entrepreneurs.

Strome says he put just as much thought and research into this investment in his alma mater as he has into his business decisions as chief investment officer of Strome Group and Strome Investment Management LP. As is his practice, he is aiming for impressive returns from the ODU gift, except in this case it is not explicit financial gain he is looking for, but rather the development of a university program that will spur economic growth and enhance personal dignity for men and women in the workforce.

He arrived at the decision to give the money to ODU after many hours of discussion with his wife and several other people from business and academic spheres. “We thought long and hard about it,” Strome says in an interview at his home in Pacific Palisades in northwest Los Angeles. The deliberations were about the ramifications of philanthropy in general, as well as the merits of higher education as a launching pad for entrepreneurship.

“I have deep skepticism about charity,” Strome explains. “It can create dependence, be disruptive to incentives and lead to disempowerment. I support dignity, having a job, empowering rather than disempowering people.”

He also acknowledges that he has spent most of his professional career in the “nature” camp of the nature-versus-nurture debate, believing that successful entrepreneurs tend to rely upon aptitudes and attributes that nature provides them. “I thought entrepreneurs were born, not made, but now I’m not so sure that is true.”

Today, Strome says, he has an overarching desire to give back, while also promoting his faith in entrepreneurship as the “secret sauce” of economic opportunity. His philosophical stance might be described in terms of yin-and-yang harmonies he has identified between nature and nurture and between philanthropy and empowerment.

“The focus on entrepreneurship comes from personal experience and a desire to give back what I have learned and prospered from,” he says. “I feel very fortunate to have lived at a time, in a society organized as ours, within an economic system that has allowed me to prosper. I understand and appreciate that I did not do it alone and our society has put me in this position of prosperity, and I want to give back, or return the favor.

“My belief system, an educated belief, finds that traditional charity can be quite hurtful to just those whom you intend to help. So I looked around for things that I could do that would empower others and support dignity. Largely, that means having a job or place in society where a person feels that they are contributing. It really comes down to empowering versus disempowering people.

“So, again, through my experience, I have become empowered and empowered many others by creating companies which create jobs, which create more and lower-cost goods and services, which create a higher standard of living for society, which creates more empowered citizens, with more purchasing power, which creates wealth, which funds more companies.”

His bottom line, Strome says: He wants to see his gift to ODU have a clear effect upon the business entrepreneurship of the university’s graduates, increasing the number of businesses they launch and people they employ.
WHAT MAKES AN ENTREPRENEUR?

Strome answers by citing his grandfather in rural Ohio who literally bet the farm on a venture to raise chickens. Predators took a bite out of profits early on, so the grandfather kept a shotgun by the kitchen door. One day when he was running out to take a shot at a chicken hawk, he tripped, the gun fired and he lost his right arm. “He was right-handed,” Strome says. “He had to relearn everything, and he did. That was perseverance.”

Perseverance, then, is a building block of entrepreneurship.

Strome’s father set out on his own and bought a dairy farm in upstate New York. What was amazing about his father, Strome says, was his creativity. “When you don’t have any money, you have to fix your own tractor.”

If there is a single, most important trait for an entrepreneur to have, it is creativity. Strome believes. In his use of the word, creativity comprises adaptability, intelligence and confidence in the face of risk.

Tammy Strome, who joined her husband for the interview, adds that when she was starting out in the field of finance, “I thought the people would be very rigid. But I found that business managers are very creative. That is the driving force. They are creative enough to carry out innovations.”

She is nearing completion of a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, which prompts her to add that higher education too often whittles down nonconformists, a category that typically includes the most creative students. “Maybe something is amiss in the educational system when very creative kids get Cs,” she says.

Strome calls his wife one of the most creative people he knows. Her interests have led to expertise in modern art, business development, haute cuisine, and Jungian psychology. Her latest gambit: starting her own line of Sonoma County wines, focusing on Russian River Valley pinot noir.

The couple agrees that what universities do best for potential entrepreneurs is to provide them with mentors, feedback and basic skills and knowledge in a range of disciplines. They also say the tried-and-true educational process is often needed to temper — but not squelch — what they label as “unbridled creativity.”

“A kid comes up with a software app, and he thinks he is going to control the market,” Strome says in illustrating the point.

“Then he falls flat, but he is learning and he’s far ahead of others in entrepreneurship. He’ll find his footing, just taking a shot at developing and marketing an app is an educational process in itself, as is learning to take goods to market, learning how to adapt, finding ways to persevere.”

HOW SHOULD ODU GO ABOUT CREATING A CULTURE OF ENTREPRENEURIALISM ON CAMPUS?

Strome and university officials have agreed on a basic curriculum that involves a general education course in entrepreneurial strategies that will be offered through the College of Business and Public Administration. A second-tier course will be offered through most, if not all, of the other ODU colleges and will be tailored to entrepreneurs according to discipline — for example, targeting engineering students who want to know how to reap commercial rewards from an invention. Advanced courses, incorporating lessons in areas such as startup financing, will complete the curriculum in the business college.

The ODU program that Strome envisions will go a step further than the traditional classroom, and co-curricular offerings are already in the works. These will include an entrepreneur center and entrepreneurs club that will encourage students and faculty to congregate and exchange ideas; regular lectures by practicing entrepreneurs; competitions among students; and a formal way of linking mentors with promising students.

Close to his home in Los Angeles, Strome has sought advice about entrepreneurial education programs from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business, where the entrepreneurial curriculum leans heavily on inspirational lectures and mentoring from teachers and visiting executives who have had entrepreneurial experiences themselves. “When students are taught by actual entrepreneurs, they can relate to it and they are inspired,” Strome says.

He intends to provide inspiration for the students who go through the program at ODU “I want to be available, a sounding board, to help in any way I can. It’s very important to get relevant speakers, successful entrepreneurs to visit and become role models. I meet a lot of entrepreneurs, older ones and younger, and their creativity amazes and inspires me.”

President Broderick welcomes the multidisciplinary scope and the inspirational aspect of the initiative. “When discussing an entrepreneurial venture with students and alumni, it became quickly apparent that this direction was a necessity for a real-world education across all disciplines, not just business majors. Startups will continue to trigger economic growth and anyone from the arts to the sciences becomes a potential player in job creation with education, encouragement and inspiration.”

ARE THERE INCOMING FRESHMEN ALREADY THINKING ABOUT BECOMING ENTREPRENEURS?

“The focus on entrepreneurship comes from personal experience and a desire to give back what I have learned and prospered from. I feel very fortunate to have lived at a time, in a society organized as ours, within an economic system that has allowed me to prosper. I understand and appreciate that I did not do it alone and our society has put me in this position of prosperity, and I want to give back, or return the favor.”

-Mark Strome
ODU was my introduction to the world at large. That’s where I started my lifelong quest for knowledge.”

He describes himself as a young man who didn’t exactly have his life mapped out. “I knew I didn’t want to work on the farm. That was really hard.”

His high school guidance counselor pointed out that English was not his strong suit, but that he scored better in math. “That’s why I started toward engineering. The guidance counselor had a brochure from ODU’s engineering school on his desk. Maybe he had just gotten it that day, I don’t know. He suggested ODU and my thought was, ‘Hey, it’ll be warmer down there.’

“You get a lot of advice to follow A and that leads to B and that to C. That never felt right to me.”

Someone at the ODU engineering school eventually suggested that he consider graduate school in environmental engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. Berkeley is where he went, but in transportation economics instead. While in grad school he signed on to help with a study about a fast train proposed between San Francisco and Lake Tahoe, which turned into a disaster of a job, but proved fortunate nonetheless. “I worked on it, the pay stopped, but I kept working long hours. I persevered. I got some of my money. And I had a completed report that showed my qualifications and dedication.” That led to a job with a Los Angeles consulting company, which he left because it didn’t tap his creativity. He then went to work for several national investment companies before striking out on his own in 1992. Within only a few years he had been dubbed “the next George Soros” by USA Today.

In 1998, ODU awarded Strome an honorary doctorate in recognition of his longtime support of the university’s mission. He served on the ODU Educational Foundation Board, 1999-2004, and on the Board of Visitors, 2003-2008. (Strome’s sister, Sheree, followed him to ODU and received a bachelor’s degree in financial management in 1981. She is now in the real estate business in the Atlanta area.)

“We are quite fortunate to have this support from the Stromes,” says Broderick. “Old Dominion University has been generating economic growth in Hampton Roads and the commonwealth of Virginia for many years now, and that contribution can greatly increase, thanks to Mark Strome giving back to his alma mater. We will build this entrepreneurship program not only with his gift, but also with the help of his business acumen.”

In a January 1992 issue of the financial publication Barron’s, a question and answer column was headlined “Investment Iconoclast: Mark Strome Finds Winners in Unlikely Places.” At the time, Strome had been managing money on a grand scale for less than a decade. The introduction to the column describes him as “certainly one of the hottest money managers in captivity” and “very much an investment iconoclast, who looks for unlikely situations off the beaten path, in which after painstaking investigation he takes big positions.” Here is banter from the column:

Barron’s: Were you surprised by the strength of the market (in 1991)?

Strome: Yes. …

B: But still made a lot of money?

S: Yes, but I missed the whole biotech thing. …

B: But with those terrible mistakes, how much were you up last year?

S: Pre-fees, about 77 percent.

B: You ought to hang your head in shame.

S: You can say that. But I don’t know why everybody wasn’t up 80 percent last year.
Ting Xu and Her Family Have Built a $290 million-a-year Business

EVERNGREEN
A Chinese-American Success Story

Written by Mike Knepler/Photography by David Hollingsworth

Maybe it’s not such a big world after all. Just look up at the giant directional sign planted on the grounds of Ting Xu’s Evergreen Enterprises, and you will learn that it’s only 7,556 miles from Xu’s corporate headquarters in Richmond, Va., to her childhood home in Shanghai, China.

The distance from the day in 1986 when Xu arrived in America with only $200 in her pocket to attend Old Dominion University to presiding over a multimillion-dollar company that she founded: now, that’s another matter.

And how Xu and her family built their company, that’s the stuff of an American Dream.

“Yes, it’s been the American dream come true for us, and the world definitely got smaller the last 20 years,” said Xu, who graduated Old Dominion University with a B.S. in 1988 and an M.S. in 1989, with both degrees in computer science.

The quick and simply told story is that Xu and her family started a decorative flag-making business in their garage and grew it into a multifaceted corporation that produces 10 million flags a year and designs, manufactures and distributes more than 12,000 other home and garden décor products. Celebrating its 21st year, Evergreen generates $280 million to $290 million in annual sales, including revenue from the Plow & Hearth home and garden retailer, which Evergreen bought in 2010.

Evergreen’s core includes Xu as president; her husband Frank Qiu, who earned a master’s degree in economics from ODU in 1989, as chief executive officer; and her brother, James Xu, who received a master’s degree in computer science from ODU in 1991, as executive senior vice president.

But in telling their story, Xu and Qiu often interject that success did not come without errors, many long days at work and the support of family members near and far.

“You had to sacrifice, had to keep the faith in the idea and had to learn,” said Qiu, who notes that the couple worked “many 60-plus-hour weeks,” especially at the beginning, to build their company.

Yet, not only has Evergreen succeeded well beyond the family’s earliest ambitions, Xu, 48, has become a highly regarded business leader in Virginia with credentials that include being appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell to the Virginia Port Authority’s board of commissioners in 2011, serving as a board member of Richmond’s CenterStage Foundation and returning to ODU as a Landmark Executive-in-Residence speaker to share her experience with business students.

“We are fortunate to have Ting as a loyal alumna who wants to help us provide the best education and mentoring possible to our current students,” said John R. Broderick, president of ODU. “Her contributions to Old Dominion also are strengthening our global connections and increasing our cultural diversity.”

William H. Fralin Jr., former VPA chairman, describes Xu as “an excellent businesswoman who asks very insightful questions.
Ting Xu and husband Frank Qiu, at their business headquarters in Richmond.
Evergreen Enterprises, founded in 1993, features eight brands: Evergreen Flag & Garden; Cypress Home; Cape Craftsmen; New Creatives; Just the Right Shoe; Blossom Boutique; everGreetings cards; and Team Sports America.

Core leadership at Evergreen includes Ting Xu ’88 (M.S. ’89) as president; her husband Frank Qiu (M.E. ’89) as chief executive officer; and her brother, James Xu (M.S. ’91) as executive senior vice president.

In 2010, Evergreen purchased Plow & Hearth home and garden retailer.
“She was a very smart student, very active, a leader among her classmates. Everybody liked her very much. When she was in elementary school, she acted like a teacher’s assistant. The teacher used to say, ‘Ting, you give the lesson instead of me. Teach math to your classmates.’”

—Sandy Yong, describing her daughter, Ting Xu
for them.”

The family explored several ideas, but nothing quite worked out.

Then, one day, Frank, who was working for Prudential insurance at the time, told Ting he had sold a policy to a couple who made decorative flags in the garage of their home. “That really piqued my interest,” Ting said. “Eventually, Frank took me there to meet the couple.”

Xu thought the decorative flag business had “good potential” but believed she and her parents could improve upon the production process.

Before Evergreen Enterprises was officially formed, Xu’s parents made some flag prototypes on a sewing machine in the family’s garage. The first design, Xu said, was of a multicolored hot-air balloon. (Xu dispelled reports that she contributed to the hardwork, exclaiming: “No, no, I never made the flags. Any domestic work, I’m not good at it. I don’t sew or cook. Quote me on that. My husband will love that!”

Xu said she approached a banner company, which ordered 400 flags, and then “one thing led to another. … There were several ‘aha’ moments, and initially it was just a novelty idea, but it gained in popularity. Customers loved our product, loved the price point and kept asking for more designs.”

To keep up with demand, Xu asked her husband to invest. Qiu, who had a very successful year in insurance and financial services, contributed his Christmas bonus of more than $30,000 to buy eight specialty sewing machines and set up a manufacturing shop in Ningbo.

“We kept expanding the business, and we were also opening kiosks in the malls during the holiday season – three malls in Richmond and a couple in Newport News. By the second holiday time, we were in 10 different malls throughout Virginia and North Carolina,” Xu said. “Every show we went to, we sold out.”

The company was formally established in 1993, and Xu chose the name Evergreen because, she said, “we really wanted to find an easy word that represents hopefulness, prosperity and longevity. When we learned English, ‘evergreen’ was one of the words we learned early on, so I just loved that. Also, Frank is a huge green thumb. He loves trees and flowers. … So we wanted a name closer to what he’s passionate about.”

(Although the business of Evergreen Enterprises involves overseas importing, the company is not related to the Evergreen Line international maritime shipping concern.)

With the rapid growth of the business, the family needed to adjust.

“We had a lot of humble learning, a lot of burning the midnight oil,” Qiu said, adding that the couple also sent their two small children to China to live briefly with his parents because Xu’s parents were now busy working with the growing company.

Xu’s brother, James, came aboard in 1994. “James had a great job up in Charlottesville, working for Blue Cross Blue Shield,” Xu said. “Evergreen started taking off, and I really needed to find a way to write a computer program so I could deal with customers and handle transactions. My brother said, ‘Hey, let me come help you do that. I will write a program for you and also help you with shipping.’ So, he basically quit his computer programmer job and came to support me full time. He now takes care of logistics and IT.”

Qiu officially joined the company in 1995 after selling his insurance agency.

There was no slowing down. In 1996, Evergreen Enterprises exceeded the $1 million sales mark and, Xu said, “There wasn’t a year when we went back. Every single year we saw growth.”

In the late 1990s, a management consultant helped Evergreen plan its future. “That’s when we really thought we could take this company to the next level,” Xu said. In 1999, Evergreen purchased a neglected strip shopping center, including a movie theater, on Midlothian Turnpike and turned it into its sprawling corporate headquarters. In 2003, a 100,000-square-foot warehouse was added and landscaped with evergreens.

In addition to sales and physical growth, Evergreen continued to expand its product line as well as acquire other companies. In addition to Plow & Hearth, which is run as a separate company, Evergreen features eight brands: the original Evergreen Flag & Garden; Cypress Home, featuring kitchen accessories; Cape Craftsmen, which includes furniture and home décor; the whimsical New Creative garden décor; Just the Right Shoe, specializing in collectible miniature shoes; Blossom Boutique high-end fashion accessories; everGreetings cards; and Team Sports America, which includes the recently acquired SC Sports line and sells clothing and sports souvenirs licensed by the National Football League, Major League Baseball, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League and NCAA collegiate teams.

Xu’s success doesn’t surprise her parents, although they never thought that sewing decorative flags would turn into such a vast

James Xu, who also earned a master’s degree in computer science from Old Dominion, had a good job as a computer programmer with an insurance company in Charlottesville in 1994. When Evergreen started taking off as a business. Said his sister, Ting, “I really needed to find a way to write a computer program so I could deal with customers and handle transactions.

My brother said, ‘Hey, let me come help you do that. I will write a program for you and also help with shipping.’ So, he basically quit his computer programmer job and came to support me full time. He now takes care of logistics and IT.”
enterprise. “I thought I’d just be helping a small business for the family,” said Xu’s mother, Sandy Yong. “She was so brave,” the mother said of her daughter. “She did everything so aggressively. She worked so hard.

“In China, she was a very smart student, very active, a leader among her classmates,” Yong added. “Everybody liked her very much. When she was in elementary school, she acted like a teacher’s assistant. The teacher used to say, ‘Ting, you give the lesson instead of me. Teach math to your classmates.’”

Xu’s parents now have their own home, a 15-minute walk from Xu’s in Goochland County. Xu and Qiu’s children are young adults—Emily, beginning graduate studies at the College of William & Mary; Allen, a junior at the University of Virginia.

And Xu, proud of what she created, has been shifting her role from day-to-day management to strategic growth and community service. “We really have focused on building a team. The company is much more than Frank, Ting and James,” she said. “We have very strong leaders in place who manage all the functions of the company. We made a good transition from a family business to a professional one, while still keeping the entrepreneurial spirit.”

To keep Evergreen’s products exciting to shoppers, Xu and several employees attend major home décor shows in Frankfurt and Paris every year and enlist the advice of companies that specialize in forecasting trends. “The current trend,” she said, “is still a lot of bright color but supplemented by earthy tones.” She also watches for design motifs, like angels and owls, which “people love.”

Evergreen also changes products to connect with trends in awareness of health and ecology. For example, the company now uses more bamboo and recycled glass, and best sellers include a double-walled, insulated drinking cup with the words “IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT CANCER. SAVE THE TA♥TAS.”

Most of Evergreen’s products are made in China, including all of its flags at the company’s Ningbo factory, which has 70 permanent employees and about 500 who work on contract. But the company also buys from more than 150 vendors in India, Indonesia, Philippines and Eastern Europe. A design team works out of the Richmond headquarters.

Xu’s endeavors beyond Evergreen include working with ODU to help business students learn more about China. “We’re talking about sponsoring several students to go over there every year, not only to learn the language and culture but the business community,” Xu said. “In the global world we live in, education needs that exposure.

“When I was nominated for (and received) a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010, it really hit me that ODU was not just a local school anymore. It has students and graduates in all different fields all over the world, all doing different things. The school gave us a solid foundation. What I like about ODU is that it compares well on the academic front and gave us solid practical skill sets. In some ways, that’s even more important.”

ODU leaders are excited by Xu’s interest in connecting the university with China. “We’re in the initial stages of working with them to develop a study-abroad program,” said Anita Friedmann, assistant vice president of campaigns and leadership giving. “Wouldn’t it be amazing for students to go over with a faculty member and then have Ting and Frank over there to show them around!”

Business entrepreneur Richard T. Cheng, a member of ODU’s Board of Visitors and the retired founding chair of ODU’s Department of Computer Science, agrees with Friedmann and described Xu, her husband and her brother as “excellent people, very ethical and very generous. They are not only good business people but good people. That’s very important.” Those are among the reasons, he said, why he nominated Xu for the ODU Distinguished Alumni Award.

Xu also has advice for students: “Yes, it’s hard to get jobs during the recession. But the future is very, very positive as long as you keep working on it and being passionate about your dreams. There are always plenty of opportunities. Be open-minded, be global-minded and adaptable because it’s all one big village.”

Yes, the world has become a smaller place. But the American Dream still thrives.
Sturgeon roe cured with a little salt is the delicacy we call caviar, and the best of it through the years has come from countries such as Russia and Iran on the Caspian Sea. But an aquaculture farm in Florida is helping to change our expectations about $50-an-ounce fish eggs, and two Old Dominion University-trained scientists are leading the venture.

Mote Marine Laboratory, headquartered in Sarasota, has carved out an unusual niche for
itself, operating as a nonprofit marine research and science educational facility without university or government ties. Because it doesn’t have the funding lifelines that an affiliation would provide, Mote has to pay its own way, to the tune of about $20 million a year.

Funding comes from a mixture of governmental and nongovernmental research and education grants and philanthropic donations from foundations and individuals. The Aquarium at Mote Marine Laboratory is also one of the most-visited attractions in southwest Florida, and these visitors help provide support to the organization’s research efforts. Another source of funding that is gaining momentum is the work going on at the Mote Aquaculture Park, 17 miles inland from the main campus.
It is at this park where close to 60,000 Siberian sturgeon (Acipenser baerii) grow in fiberglass tanks with a total volume of about 1 million gallons of fresh water. Jim Michaels (M.S. ’80) is the sturgeon program manager, responsible for the sturgeon-growing innovations since he joined Mote in 2002. Michaels, who grew up near Baltimore and spent a lot of his childhood on the Chesapeake Bay, was working on his master’s degree in biological oceanography at ODU in the late 1970s when he became interested in aquaculture. He got into the ground floor of tilapia farming in the United States before he developed an affinity for sturgeon. In California and Florida, he worked in aquaculture focusing on white sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus) before the Mote opportunity came along.

Three years ago, Michael P. Crosby joined Mote as its senior vice president for research and last year he was named the lab’s president and CEO. Although he and Michaels did not know each other before they became colleagues at Mote, the two shared a Monarch connection. Crosby received bachelor’s (1976) and master’s (1982) degrees in biology from ODU before getting his Ph.D. in marine-estuarine-environmental sciences at the University of Maryland in 1986.

Crosby has more than 30 years of experience in multidisciplinary research and overseeing programs through his interactions with numerous universities, and national and international science and resource management agencies. Many of these endeavors focused on improving the translation and transfer of science and technical information between research, public policy and stakeholder communities. He built the foundation for his success while at ODU, he says, noting the valuable mentorship of faculty members Raymond Alden, Harold Marshall, Daniel Dauer and Jacques Zaneveld, and, as he adds, “of course Nancy Wade,” the associate professor emeritus of biology whose dedication to teaching and eccentric personality have made her popular with ODU students for nearly five decades.

“These ODU faculty prepared me well for what was then considered a somewhat atypical, multifaceted science career pathway, and it continues to be ahead of its peer institutions in providing graduates with the ability to succeed in an ever-changing 21st century,” he said.

However, Crosby notes that the best things that came from his time at ODU were meeting his wife, Sharon Stagnitta Crosby (who received her bachelor’s degree in environmental health in 1982) and the birth of their daughter, Moira Crosby (who earned an EVMS/ODU master’s degree in public health-epidemiology in 2010, and now is in the ODU public health doctorate program).

At Mote, Crosby and Michaels share an intense interest in the caviar research and development taking place because it could have an impact on the lab’s future aquaculture research programs. The idea is that the funds from the sale of sturgeon caviar and the white, mild-flavored sturgeon filets will support additional research into the aquaculture of other species for food production, as well as to restock species that are depleted in the wild. With more than $1 million in sales, presentations and recipes for caviar can be found at www.caviarmote.com, including the classic serving suggestion of caviar and brioche toast points, as well as more modern suggestions, such as caviar with pasta, as shown above.

Photos: Courtesy of Mote Laboratories

Caviar Primer

Mote Marine Laboratory’s sturgeon program expects to produce 3,900 pounds of caviar this year – that’s 540 million eggs – all of which will be from Siberian sturgeon. Michaels is just now starting to work with a new species of sturgeon, the Russian sturgeon (Acipenser gueldenstaedtii), but these fish haven’t reached the age of 4 or 5 years when females begin producing roe for the caviar.

Mote has a modern processing room where the raw fish are transformed into caviar and sturgeon filets. The products are sold to wholesalers who then sell to consumers through outlets such as Petrossian, Browne Trading Co. and even Whole Foods Markets in Florida, California, Nevada and Hawaii. Prices there are determined by the market.

To understand just how highly rated the Mote caviar is, consider one of its wholesale customers, Petrossian, the well-known fancy foods purveyor and restaurant chain that is the...
the Sturgeon Commercial Demonstration Program is nearing the break-even stage. This figure promises to rise as the operation hits its stride and if the world market for luxury goods such as caviar holds firm or grows. But a big payoff from the operation also could come from the sustainable technologies that Michaels and his co-workers have developed.

Mote has partnered with an engineering firm in Florida to create a water-saving, environmentally friendly, thoroughly computerized aquaculture setup for the Siberian sturgeon that could be licensed to entrepreneurs anywhere in the world.

The lab has been advancing the science of the seas since it opened in one small building in 1955. Now it has facilities not only in and around Sarasota, but also elsewhere in Florida, including the Keys. For about 15 years, one thrust of the lab’s research has been aquaculture. “In the late 1990s Mote recognized the fact that our world’s oceans had reached a sustainable seafood yield and any further increases in seafood production must come from aquaculture,” Michaels said.

“Mote also recognized that most of the United States’ freshwater resources were already spoken for, so if we were to increase our freshwater seafood production, sustainable technologies needed to be developed that would grow more seafood with less water.”

Michaels, who wrote the plan for the Siberian sturgeon farming project when he arrived at Mote in 2002, has settled on a recirculating water system that pulls in only about 100 gallons of well water per minute, compared with other systems in aquaculture that require 200,000 gallons per minute for the same volume of tanks. Mote has developed computer-controlled water-filtering and feeding systems for the sturgeon. When wastewater is discharged, its nutrients are used as fertilizer for plants later used in wetlands restoration and the water eventually is allowed to percolate back into the ground at the Aquaculture Park. There is no discharge of wastewater off the property.

Most American consumers know that salmon raised under controlled conditions takes fisheries pressure off wild salmon, and the same is true for sturgeon. Wild-caught Caspian species of sturgeon, including the top-tier Beluga, are endangered and their caviar has been the subject of various quotas and bans in recent years. So, if premium caviar can come from farm-raised sturgeon, the wild species may not be threatened with the overfishing that so reduced their numbers.

Michaels said that he is motivated by the fact that aquaculture can be ecologically and economically sound, and the motivation was instilled at ODU. “As I progressed through the master’s degree program, I became more and more interested in aquaculture,” he explained. “Dr. Anthony ‘Tony’ Provenzano Jr. was my biological oceanography professor and became my aquaculture mentor, as well as the major professor for my thesis. Tony’s influence extended to other graduate students as well. He managed to convince the university to allow one of the abandoned houses near the Elizabeth River to be used for aquaculture research. We had quite a few pools in the backyard growing numerous aquatic species. This building is long since gone, but the memories of camaraderie with Tony and fellow students will never fade. I still stay in touch with Tony.”

source for the world’s best caviar. Petrossian rebrands the Mote caviar, but Whole Foods and other retailers sell it with the Mote label.

Sturgeon filets and caviar also go to numerous restaurants in Florida and the Northeast.

Jim Michaels, the ODU alum who runs Mote’s sturgeon program, says the Siberian species he harvests have mild, white meat that boasts lots of “good fat,” similar to salmon. The caviar from the Siberian species is unofficially rated as — and priced like — the Caspian Ossetra caviar. From the Caspian, Beluga is the most sought-after caviar and the Ossetra, as well as Serruga, follow closely in rank and price.
THE OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION presented its top awards for 2013 at its 5th Annual Honors Dinner in October.

Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to:

Jamie M. Grooms ’84, who received a bachelor’s degree in biology, is CEO of the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research, a one-stop shop in Gainesville for Florida investors and entrepreneurs seeking new business opportunities. He was co-founder and CEO of Axogen, a company that creates nerve reconstruction and regeneration products for surgeons, and of Regeneration Technologies, now RTI Surgical, which processes human tissue for allogenic grafts used in orthopedic, oral maxillofacial, urinary and cardiovascular surgeries. Co-inventor of the allograft bone implant basic to RTI’s product line, Grooms led the company’s spinoff from the University of Florida Tissue Bank in 1998, growing RTI from less than $5 million in revenues in 1995 to $150 million in 2001.

Rudolph “Dolph” L. Johnson Jr. ’87, who received a doctorate in industrial/organizational psychology, is senior vice president of global human resources at Hasbro Inc. in Pawtucket, R.I., a worldwide play company that produces toys, games, and television and motion picture entertainment. He earned art and psychology degrees before studying at ODU. He is on the Board of Visitors of Northwestern University, and the boards of the Pawtucket Foundation and of Year Up, a youth-support program that empowers young adults with technical and professional skills to ensure success in livable-wage careers.

Juliana J. Kim ’93 (M.S. ’95), who received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in dental hygiene, is a consultant for the pharmaceuticals and health care industries and serves on the Dean’s Advisory Board at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. She was a visiting scholar at Boston University, and in 2008, earned an M.B.A. at INSEAD in partnership with The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2009, she was the first dental hygienist to earn a Ph.D. in dentistry at the University of British Columbia. In 2012, ODU named her the Outstanding Dental Hygiene Alumna.

Jack J. Ross ’84, who received a bachelor’s degree in marketing management, is president/COO of Dominion Enterprises and Landmark Media Enterprises in Norfolk. Do-

Survey Says: We Want More Ways to Connect

Thank you to the more than 5,000 alumni who completed our recent survey. Your responses are still being analyzed, but already we have found in them a loud and clear message: You are interested in more ways to connect with the University and each other. The alumni association provides a variety of ways to do just that through chapters and clubs, networking events, social gatherings and student/alumni career panels. To ensure that you are up to date on the latest opportunities to connect, please visit odualumni.org and update your contact information. You’ll also find a full calendar of events designed to engage alumni in the life of the university. If you don’t see a chapter or club in your area, contact the alumni office to learn more about how we can help you get together with fellow Monarchs.

And while you’re online, take time to add the alumni association and the university to your list of Facebook favorites, follow both on Twitter, or check out ODU’s YouTube channel for great video content. As our alumni base grows to more than 125,000 worldwide, we want to share news and information that is compelling and interesting to you, and in a timely manner.

–Dana Allen, Assistant Vice President, Alumni Relations
minion Enterprises is the largest publisher of localized print publications and websites in all the major U.S. markets for classified media. He has been a trustee of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and a member of the ODU Educational Foundation board, from 2009-2012.

James M. Smith ’73, who received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering, co-founded Hamilton Brook Smith Reynolds, a full-service, worldwide intellectual property law firm in Concord, Mass., in 1980. For more than 30 years, he has helped universities, startups, and emerging, small and mid-sized companies protect their intellectual property rights. His law degree is from Georgetown University. Smith also serves on his firm’s management committee, board of directors and practice and procedures committee.

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

James A. “Jim” Hixon is executive vice president of law and corporate relations for Norfolk Southern Corp., headquartered in Norfolk. A passionate arts patron and public servant, Hixon gives his time generously to many organizations, including the Virginia Arts Festival and the ODU Board of Visitors, for which he served as rector from 2004-06. He received a B.S. in finance and business administration from Virginia Tech in 1976 and a J.D. from the College of William & Mary School of Law in 1979.

Gary T. McCollum is senior vice president and general manager for Cox Communications’ Virginia system. He received a B.S. in Russian studies and political science from James Madison University and an M.B.A. from the University of Connecticut. He is also a licensed Christian minister and a major in the U.S. Army Reserve. Among his numerous leadership recognition awards, McCollum was named five times to CableFAX’s list of the “Most Influential Minorities in Cable.” He is the founding chair of Elevate Early Education (E3), a Virginia advocacy organization.

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD WINNER

Brian Holland ’93 received a bachelor’s degree in finance. He is owner and president of Atlantic Bay Mortgage Group in Virginia Beach, a company he co-founded in 1996. Holland later joined the College of Business and Public Administration’s advisory board and the board of the ODU Athletic Foundation. In 2004, he was named Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year. Holland has served in leadership positions of Multiple Sclerosis for Hampton Roads, the Young Presidents’ Organization, Virginia, and the Entrepreneurs’ Organization, Southeast Virginia chapter, for which he is a charter member. He is also a former member of the Economics Club of Hampton Roads.

SISTERS HONORED WITH OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Elizabeth Edlich ’85 and her sister, Rachel Edlich ’91, who both received bachelor’s degrees in human services counseling, co-founded two skin care companies in Los Angeles: One World Live Inc. in 1999 and Radical Skincare in 2009. After developing more than 100 beauty products through One World Live Inc., the Edlichs founded Radical Skincare to create an anti-aging line that makes women feel both beautiful and empowered. Liz is the co-author of “Radical Living: Going Above and Beyond.” Rachel, who played lacrosse at ODU, was director of the Virginia Beach Boys and Girls Club and, later, was owner of BioLife of Aspen and also a brand manager of Television Marketing Group Inc.
ALUMNI PROFILE

Volunteerism Guru

Elizabeth Lloyd ’85 (M.P.A. ’95) Ready for Third Career

Elizabeth Lloyd ’85 (M.P.A. ’95), of Norfolk, worked as a paralegal in her first career, and capped her second career as president and chief executive officer of Volunteer Hampton Roads in spring 2013. Now, she said, she’s ready for her third career, perhaps one that allows her more time with her family.

Her bachelor’s in criminal justice served her well in her first job with the law firm of Hunton Williams. But it was those night classes en route to her master’s in public administration that prepared her for the big jump from paralegal to president and CEO of Volunteer Hampton Roads when she was only 34.

Lloyd said she may not have fully appreciated it at the time, but the former ODU professor of urban studies and public administration Wolfgang Pindur, who died in 2002, prepared her to take the reins of a nonprofit organization. “He was larger than life. The program was quite a journey, but well worth it,” she said. “He taught you to dive deep into what you want to accomplish. The program evaluation, public policy, budgeting and strategic planning were just what I needed to be able to take that job with Volunteer Hampton Roads at 34.”

It helped too that some of her fellow students in the public administration master’s program were available to partner with in the nonprofit sector. One such person, she said, was Suzanne Puryear ’71 (M.P.A. ’95), who is president of The Planning Council, which promotes social and health services in Hampton Roads.

As the top executive at Volunteer Hampton Roads for 16 years, Lloyd was responsible for helping local nonprofits succeed, as well as fostering volunteerism and philanthropy. And she did it well. The organization won the Points of Light Foundation’s George W. Romney Award in 2007 as the top national volunteer organization. “I’m really proud of that. We were competing against 500 centers, many much larger than we were,” she said.

Lloyd is also proud of a training program she developed for staff and board members of area nonprofits. “Many people who start up in this sector don’t have business acumen. I figured that the training was a gift that kept giving. We were able to touch a great number of organizations.”

After stepping down from her Volunteer Hampton Roads position, Lloyd spent a quiet summer with her family before turning her attention to that third career. “I’m thinking consulting and grant writing, hopefully to provide balance to my life and give me more time with family. But I still want to help out with the community and am eager to work with nonprofits or businesses that want to give back to the community. I have skills I can offer from my work and my schooling.”

STAY CONNECTED

The Lion’s Den provides alums with a free, online connection to the Old Dominion University Alumni Association. Membership is exclusive to ODU alumni. Once you have registered, you can use the Lion’s Den online community to share information about yourself through online postings, and to submit Class Notes and other news to Monarch Magazine.

Get more information about The Lion’s Den at odualumni.org

As members, you also can search a secure online database of other registered alumni; update your information with the Alumni Association.
1960s
John Bells ’64 (M.A. ’73) was one of 15,000 participants completing the 20th Camp Pendleton, Calif., 10K Mud Run, a fundraiser for the families of active-duty Marines. Bells is a vice president with the Pollakov Financial Group, an agency of the Massachusetts Mutual Financial Group located in La Jolla, Calif.

Peter L. King ’65 and his daughter, Jennifer S. King, are co-authors of “The Product Wheel Handbook: Achieving Balanced Flow in Multi-product Process Operations,” a follow-up to his best-selling “Lean for the Process Industries” (both available from Productivity Press). King ended a 42-year career with DuPont Co. in 2007 and is now the president of Lean Dynamics LLC.

1970s
Carlton Bennett ’72 has been elected president of the Theta Chi Fraternity Inc. tax-exempt foundation. Bennett reports that out of 68 national fraternities, Theta Chi Foundation was No. 2 in academic scholarship support granted to members in undergraduate and graduate school. This support amounted to approximately $276,000. The foundation manages $10 million in assets.

Peter Griffin ’73 of the Griffin Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisers in Norfolk received the firm’s Spirit Award in recognition of his professional achievement as a financial adviser for 30 years. The award also notes his community support, including service to Ghent United Methodist Church, the Wesley Foundation board at Old Dominion University, Volunteer Hampton Roads and the Rotary Club. He was recognized by peers and family at a Wells Fargo conference in Washington, D.C.

James Smith ’73, a principal in the law firm of Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds, PC, in Concord, Mass., was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus at Old Dominion’s annual alumni honors dinner in October 2013.

Charles M. Murff ’75 and Barbara Murff celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in Chesapeake on Oct. 14, 2013. Family and friends joining the celebration included his mother, Maxine H. Murff; their four children and four grandchildren. Murff is a project estimator and vice president for Testing Specialties Inc.

Darlene Bowen Woolery ’75 retired from teaching in June 2012 and moved to Texas. She writes, “I bought a condo in Richardson to live close to my daughter and son-in-law. My new job is babysitter for my 15-month-old granddaughter. She looks so much like my daughter that sometimes I call her Danielle rather than Lilly. Love my new job!”

Paul Doros (M.A. ’76) is a former curator of glass for the Chrysler Museum of Art and later worked in the 20th-century decorative arts department for Christie’s auction house in New York City. Doros has written a recently published work, “The Art Glass of Louis Comfort Tiffany” (Vendome Press), and currently lives in Montclair, N.J.

Linda Stone Johnson ’76 retired in June 2013 from Southampton County Public Schools after a career as an elementary school guidance counselor in Courtland, Va.; counselor and teacher in Portsmouth; and test coordinator for Navy College in Yokosuka, Japan, to name a few. She and her husband, Steve, have three grown children and are proud first-time grandparents of Ryland Robert Williams, born May 9, 2013. Linda’s next project involves family research and genealogy.

Lynda Piaciocco Buss ’79 earned a master’s degree in nursing education from Charleston Southern University in December 2010. After 27 years in nephrology nursing, she is now traveling a different path and has joined the nursing faculty at the Technical College of the Lowcountry in Beaufort, S.C.

1980s
Doug Martin ’80, chief of civil works projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Norfolk District, was referenced in a July 17, 2013, article in the Virginian-Pilot concerning the Craney Island expansion. Martin is responsible for the project, scheduled to open in 2028, which will add a marine terminal on the east side of the island.

W. Lawrence Daniels ‘81 was recently promoted to chair for campus nursing programs at South University. Daniels coordinates 12 nursing programs in 10 states from Virginia Beach.

Edward Baker ’82 recently accepted a position as a principal in the firm The Concept of Zero located in Norfolk. As a result of a work injury, Baker retired from a job as staff attorney for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is using the time to pursue a lifelong dream in music and the arts.

Joe Pettoni ’83 was selected for a one-year assignment as director of quality of life for United States Forces in Afghanistan. He reports to the commander of USFOR-A. His email address in Bagram, Afghanistan, is joseph.r.pettoni@afghan.swa.army.mil.

Ray Gunter ’84 is a loan officer and branch manager for Monarch Mortgage’s Chesapeake and Norfolk offices. He is past president of Tidewater Mortgage Bankers Association and is a member of Hampton Roads Realtors Association.

ROSS MUGLER ’84 (M.P.A. ’03) was elected president of the Virginia Commissioners of the Revenue Association at its annual conference in Hampton. He has served as Hampton’s commissioner of the revenue, an elected office, since 1992. Mugler was a member of the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors from 2002-10 and served as rector from 2008 to 2010. He is a certified Master Commissioner of the Revenue and a graduate of the Civic Institute of Hampton Roads. He has received several gubernatorial appointments and held leadership roles in numerous Hampton Roads organizations.

Jacquelyn Dover Smullen ’84 accepted a position in fall 2013 as director of business planning and analysis at Gold Key/PHR, located in Virginia Beach.

Sheila Garrison ’85, president and CEO of Integra Project Management and Consulting, LLC, recently added a Virginia real estate license to her credentials. Armed with a civil engineering technology degree, Garrison works as a project manager for site acquisition, design and construction development projects with Joyner Commercial Real Estate.

James Althouse ’87 is looking to rendezvous with any Army ROTC class of 1987 alumni who still visit or live in Hampton Roads. “I have season passes to the football games and would love to coordinate a game when we can get together early and prowl the campus and catch up,” he writes. He is hoping to see a 30-year reunion of former classmates. Contact him at jamesalthouse@hotmail.com.

Kenneth D. Bricker ’87 has joined accounting firm Cherry Bekaert LLP as a partner in the firm’s government contractor services group. Bricker specializes in regulatory issues and guidelines for working within federal acquisition regulations, contracts and codes. A certified public accountant, Bricker has also taught in the field of government contracting.
John Costanzo ’87 has taken a position as assistant director for the ODU Tri-Cities Higher Education Center in Portsmouth. Costanzo most recently was an executive officer in the U.S. Army, and retired as a lieutenant colonel after 26 years of service.

Susan Roussel Blackman ’88 has been recognized by Benchmark Litigation as one of the “Top 250 Women in Litigation” in the U.S. for her work in labor and employment, as well as business immigration law. Blackman is a partner in the Labor & Employment Group of Wilcox Savage. She is the only Hampton Roads lawyer, and one of only four in Virginia, to receive this national recognition.

Patricia Melise ’89 (M.S. Ed. ’95) was promoted to executive director of elementary schools for the Norfolk Public Schools in July 2013. She most recently was assigned as principal of Larchmont Elementary School, located across Hampton Boulevard from ODU. She earned a doctorate in educational leadership and policy study at Virginia Tech in 2011.

1990s

Martin Speroni ’90 traveled to New York after graduating from ODU and earned an M.B.A. from Columbia University. After working “for a while,” he earned a master’s degree in sociology from University of San Francisco, and worked some more. He writes, “Lately I got a law degree from Regent University, and passed the Virginia Bar exam.”

Sean Regan ’95 (M.B.A. ’08) added to his nursing credentials in 1996, earning a Family Nurse Practitioner master’s degree. In 1998 he began working at the Glennan Center of Geriatrics at Eastern Virginia Medical School. In 2002, he joined a new business, Long Term Care of Virginia, which specializes in providing medical services to residents in skilled nursing facilities. Regan earned an MBA from ODU in 2008 and is currently an executive officer with Long Term Care of Virginia, which provides medical care to residents in more than 50 facilities.

Rodney Nash ’97 received a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Gardner Webb University on May 13, 2013.

2000s

Natalie Diaz ’00 (M.F.A. ’06) has received an American Book Award for her first book of poetry, “When My Brother Was an Aztec” (Copper Canyon Press), published in 2013. She is a faculty member of the Creative Writing Department at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., and was a member of the Lady Monarchs basketball team which played in the NCAA championship in 1997.

Leticia Canaday ’01 has accepted a position as catalog librarian at Hampton University. She previously was employed as a senior information services specialist at Pearl Bailey Library in Newport News.

Corey Hamlin ’01 is now division-wide supervisor of alternative education with Suffolk Public Schools. Hamlin previously was an assistant principal in King and Queen County Public Schools, and taught in Gloucester and with special needs children at SECEP. He plans to work with at-risk students as well as collaborate on initiatives to support alternative programs and services in the city.

Johnathan Phillips (M.S.N. ’02) received the 2013 Distinguished Faculty Advisor Award from Radford University for his excellent service to undergraduate students. Phillips was nominated by students, colleagues and other members of the University community. One of his honors is a scholarship established in his name. Phillips has worked at Radford University since 2006, where he teaches in the School of Nursing. He currently chairs the Virginia Department of Health’s Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Midwife, and Nurse Educator Scholarship Advisory Committee. He lives in Martinsville with his wife and two children.

Tamara Poulson ’02 was named alumni relations manager for Tidewater Community College in October 2013. She most recently managed public relations and outreach for the Maryland Department of Transportation Office of Minority Business Enterprise and has previously worked at Hampton Roads Transit, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Norfolk and an accounting firm. A Norfolk native, Poulson volunteers for Best Buddies International and Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Homero Babbitt (M.A. ’03) has joined the Chrysler Museum of Art as assistant director of development in the midst of its major expansion and renovation. The grand opening is planned in April 2014. A Chesapeake native, Babbitt held similar positions at Norfolk-based Physicians for Peace, WHRO Public Media and the YMCA of South Hampton Roads.

Lindsay Sipos ’04 (M.E.M. ’08) has been promoted to lead basic design engineer for the AE 3007H turbofan engine, which powers the MC-4Q Triton UAS, an unmanned aircraft. This position supports the propulsion and power division of NAWC-AD located at Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Elyssa LeFevre Chayo ’05 has accepted a position as international business manager at Di Blasi, Parent & Associates located in Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

Shawn Kohlman ’05 became director of admissions for the Newport News campus of Stratford University on July 1, 2013. He now owns a home in Chesapeake and lives there with his girlfriend and her 7-year-old.

Brian Schonfeld ’06 wrote a paper, “Planning for the Best: A New Approach to Risk in Tactical Operation Planning,” published in July 2013 by the Army Center for Lessons Learned. Schonfeld is a U.S. Army major stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. His undergraduate studies were in biology and oceanography but his career has branched out to include management leadership.

Paul Robert Holman ’07 has been named a member of the 2013 Executive Council of New York Life Insurance Co., an honor that places him among its elite sales force. He has been a New York Life agent since 2009. A Virginia Beach resident, Holman is a Fellow of the Life Underwriter Training Council and in 2012, received the Quality Award for Life Insurance and Annuities.

Estacy Porter ’07 received a master of science in nursing from Liberty University on Jan. 13, 2013.

Joan Breslin Sechrist (Ph.D. ’07) was awarded the 2013 Anita Owen Award of Recognition given by the Academy of Food and Nutrition for innovative nutrition education programs for the public. A registered dietitian and educator, Sechrist was recognized at the group’s national convention held in Houston, Texas, in October.

Lauren Young ’07 writes, “I have been given a contract to publish my book of poetry – “Elemental Facets” – which should be available late fall or early 2014. Thank you, Tim Seibles and Philip Raisor and Janet Peery!”

Lisa Comerose ’08 graduated with a master’s degree in business administration and a 4.0 GPA from Averett University in 2013.

Patrick Austin ’09 was recently promoted to an associate with Shapiro, Lewis, Appleton & Favaloro P.C., in Virginia Beach. Austin worked for this firm part-time while attending George Mason University School of Law. He took the Virginia Bar Exam in July 2013.

Apryl Roberts ’09 is a new member of the board of directors of the Hampton Roads chapter of the International Special Events Society. The board members educate, advance and promote the special events industry and its professionals along with related community industries.

2010s

James J. Griffin ’11 lives in Virginia Beach and sells real estate with Blu Sky Realty.

Stepheno Zollos ’11 has been elected president of the Alumni...
When Old Dominion alums Michelle Chesson ’06 and Andre Crawley ’07 get married in August of this year in Chesapeake, they’ll have lots of ODU friends around them. They’re also likely to give a shout out to ODU’s Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology and its STEM education opportunities for minority students.

“Our is a great story to inspire those within STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields, minorities and other current and future ODU students,” said Chesson, who has a degree in computer engineering technology. Crawley’s degree is in electrical engineering technology.

The couple, who met at ODU in 2003, lives in northern Virginia. She works as a systems engineering consultant for Deloitte Consulting and he as a senior engineering contractor for the Naval Sea Systems Command.

Chesson was a member of both the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Society of Women Engineers, and had internships while at ODU at T-Mobile and NASA Langley. “Because of my GPA, activity in organizations, internships and academics, all thanks to ODU, I had a job offer before I even graduated from ODU,” she said.

“My advice to potential and current STEM students is to never give up,” Chesson added. “Most STEM fields offer pretty good salaries and great career opportunities. That’s what got me interested. Sometimes the classes can be tough, but find a STEM organization or classmates who you can buddy with for studying and homework.”

Crawley was a NSBE member, and he had internships for three years while at ODU. He, too, had a job lined up before he graduated. “STEM programs are very challenging, but the hard work pays off upon graduation,” he said.
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2nd Lt. Paul W. Neubauer ’12 has graduated from the U.S. Marine Corps Basic School in Quantico, Va., and has now moved to Pensacola, Fla., for flight school.

Freddie Schwarz ’12 was promoted in April as pre-court supervisor of Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. In his leisure time, Schwarz plays on a co-rec soccer team in the Fairfax Athletics Adult League with Theta Chi fraternity brothers Taylor Hamil, Steven Hartmann and Ros Farmer (Iota Zeta chapter alumnus).

Nick Szoke ’12 has been promoted to operations manager for Marine Oil Service in Norfolk. Szoke has been with the company more than a year and has worked in both the quality and supply chain management areas. He now has responsibility for day-to-day operations for the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast coastal regions. Szoke earned a degree in maritime supply chain management and in business analytics. He also played field hockey for the U.S. Olympic men’s team.

Bonnie Vallance ’12 has decided to go to law school, transferring from a master’s degree program in legal studies. She writes, “First-year law is tough and it keeps me busy. I plan on taking four years to graduate this program.”

Kendal Fuoti Walsh ’07 and Patrick Walsh ’06 were married Aug. 3, 2013, at The Half Moone Cruise and Celebration Center on the downtown Norfolk waterfront. After Patrick proposed to Kendal in November 2012, they agreed there was only one place they wanted to get married—in Norfolk. As two ODU alumni, Patrick and Kendal couldn’t have a wedding without paying homage to their beloved alma mater. With a venue full of navy and gray, their love for Old Dominion couldn’t be missed. They even had an ODU-inspired photo booth showcasing cardboard cutouts of the bride and groom in their ODU best! Surely Big Blue would be proud. They currently reside—where else?—in Norfolk.

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Kimberly Luchtenberg (Ph.D. ’13) successfully defended her dissertation, “Three Essays on Corporate Liquidity, Financial Crisis and Real Estate,” and has joined the faculty of East Carolina University. She is one of only 28 female, African American, business school finance professors in the U.S. Since 2007, Luchtenberg has participated with The PhD Project, a program founded by the KPMG Foundation in 1994 to diversify corporate America by increasing minority business professors, who in turn, attract more minority students to study business in college.

Lisa Waller Harper ’96 and Derrick Harper are happy to announce their marriage on May 5, 2012, in Virginia. They honeymooned on a seven-day cruise to the Eastern Caribbean and have since settled down in Raleigh, N.C.

Clifton Wells ’08 and Michelle Barbeta Wells ’08 were married on May 30, 2010, in Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse, N.Y. They currently reside in Colonial Beach, Va.
ALUMNI PROFILE

Building Communities

Bob O’Neill ’73 Shares Good Advice Worldwide

Not only was Robert J. “Bob” O’Neill Jr. a summa cum laude political science student at Old Dominion University, but the 1973 alum has developed a reputation for giving good advice to city and county managers around the world.

O’Neill, executive director of the 9,000-member International City/County Management Association since 2002, also found time to serve on ODU’s Board of Visitors for 12 years (1992-96, 2005-13) and to speak with organizations throughout Hampton Roads.

He often brings the message that citizen trust in government requires accountability, performance and civic engagement. For example, in June 2013, during his last month as an ODU board member, O’Neill told a gathering sponsored by the Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement that government needs to consistently engage the public, not just when a project needs support.

To O’Neill, civic engagement means “[o]perationalizing the democratic values and principles that our country was founded upon, that give citizens a feeling of ownership and of value in the community.” He encourages interaction through social media, but he cautions that engagement also must lead to action and results.

“Bob is a real student of how to get things done in the public sector,” said longtime friend James B. Oliver Jr., the former city manager of Norfolk and Portsmouth who earned a master’s in urban studies at ODU in 1994 and is founding chairman of the HRCCE.

Self-described as one of the most traveled people in the United States, O’Neill is on the road three or four times a week for ICMA, including at least two overseas trips a year.

Such visits and conversations, combined with research surveys, O’Neill said, give him a more positive view of America than the image of malaise that dominates the news. “What you see going on are things that are really, really exciting – how people are building their communities” without necessarily waiting for federal or state assistance, he said.

“As one of the fundamental building blocks of a community,” O’Neill said, “universities based in urban metropolitan regions have a huge role and an obligation to be major players . . . particularly for a university like Old Dominion, which already is an anchor in the community and a huge economic engine, and has the opportunity to be a neutral place where people can come together to talk about where the region is going . . .”

O’Neill came to ODU while working part-time for his hometown city of Hampton. He eventually served as Hampton’s city manager from 1984 to 1987.

“I can’t say enough about the faculty and staff at Old Dominion, their help and flexibility,” O’Neill said. “We had many relevant conversations about what we would be doing in the community . . .”

After getting his bachelor’s in political science from ODU, O’Neill earned a master’s in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University in 1974, and in 2001, he received that institution’s highest honor, The Spirit of Public Service award. He was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws from ODU in 2000.

–Mike Knepler
Anne Hunter Bugg

Former Old Dominion University first lady Anne Hunter Bugg, 88, died Dec. 30, 2013, at Harbor’s Edge in Norfolk. She was a native of Tampa, Fla., and a resident of Norfolk since 1969.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, James L. Bugg Jr., who served as president of ODU from 1969 to 1976.

As noted in “Old Dominion University: From the Great Depression to the New Millennium,” Bugg’s first task as first lady was to find and refurbish a place to live – a home that would both meet the needs of her family and serve as a suitable presidential residence:

“With long-range vision and good taste, she found a house close to the campus, on the banks of the Elizabeth River, that would fit the bill for University functions and social events for decades to come…”

“Like Virginia Rice Webb before her, Anne Bugg was concerned with women’s issues, supporting her husband in his efforts to bring women faculty members’ salaries to parity with those of the men, and laid the groundwork to get a daycare facility on campus to accommodate the University staff.

“She also made cultivating alumni a priority, believing – rightly – that they are key to the University’s success and progress.”

Bugg graduated from Florida State University with a philosophy degree and then earned a master’s in religious education from the University of California, Berkeley. She was an educator in Columbia, Mo., and former education director for the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

Perhaps one of her proudest accomplishments was the creation of a preschool in St. Louis to serve the underprivileged, inner-city population, which became the Head Start Program. She taught hundreds of students and also taught job interview skills to their mothers. Most recently, she was a Suzuki violin music teacher for more than 20 years.

Bugg was an active member of Christ & St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, and was also a member of the ODU Faculty Wives Club.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by four grandchildren, four siblings, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and adoring violin students.

James L. Bugg III (Ann Stuart), all of Norfolk. She is also survived by four grandchildren, four siblings, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and adoring violin students.
Paul W. Kirk Jr.

Paul W. Kirk Jr., professor emeritus of biology at Old Dominion, died Nov. 16, 2013, in Virginia Beach. He was 82.

Kirk was born in Jacksonville, Fla. The family moved frequently as required by his father's job with Seaboard Railroad. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth and attended the Norfolk Division of William and Mary (the predecessor to ODU) and the University of Richmond before serving as a medical bacteriologist in the U.S. Army. After a tour in Europe and an honorable discharge, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's in biology from the University of Richmond and met Evelyn Irene Beard. They married in 1958 and remained inseparable thereafter.

Kirk was awarded a Ph.D. in botany at Duke University and held brief appointments at Western Carolina University, Virginia Tech and North Carolina Wesleyan, before joining the Old Dominion faculty in 1971. He was promoted to full professor, and served as the associate dean for the College of Sciences and Health Professions and graduate program director of biology.

At ODU, he conducted seminal work in hydrocarbon utilization by marine fungi that informed the current understanding of marine ecosystems and biological remediation of oil spills. He edited the first comprehensive study on the Great Dismal Swamp, and became renowned as a passionate lecturer in botany and medical microbiology. He also served as a resource for area physicians, providing advice as to the toxicity of ingested mushrooms. He retired from ODU in 1992.

In addition to his wife, Kirk is survived by his children, Allan (Robin) and Susan (Peter), and four grandchildren. The family requests that memorial donations be made in Kirk's name to the ODU Educational Foundation (http://www.odu.edu/about/support-odu/foundations/educational) for the biological sciences.

Stephen Pinyee Shao

Stephen Pinyee Shao, of Virginia Beach, professor emeritus of management information systems and decision sciences at Old Dominion, died Sept. 5, 2013. He was 89.

Shao, who taught at the university from 1956 to 1990, was well known worldwide for more than 50 successful college textbooks and manuals on business topics and his autobiography, titled "Memories in Two Nations." A second autobiography, "My Extraordinary Life," will be published in the near future.

He was known throughout Virginia in the mid-1980s for running for U.S. Congress. He was proud to be the first Chinese American listed on the official ballot as a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Shao was born in Zarkow, China, in Jiangsu Province in 1924, one of eight children. After earning a bachelor's degree in China, he earned a master's degree at Baylor University in 1949, followed by a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin in 1956.

At ODU in 1956, Shao began as an assistant professor of business management and attained rank as a full professor in 1959. He served as chairman of the Department of Quantitative Sciences in Business and Economics from 1970-76 and in 1978 was designated an Eminent Professor of management information systems.

While his professional accomplishments were well documented, Shao always felt that his greatest accomplishment was his family. In 1953, Shao married Betty Lucille Outen, a native of Bethune, S.C. They had four sons before his wife died in 1966. He remarried in 1970 to Priscilla Griffin. They also had four children and enjoyed 43 years together in Virginia Beach.

James Bell Miller

James Bell Miller, of Norfolk, an adjunct instructor of electrical engineering technology at Old Dominion, died Aug. 4, 2013. He was 66.

A native of New York City, he served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War.

Miller, who began teaching electrical engineering technology courses at ODU in 2007, received bachelor's and master's degrees from the university. During his 33-year career with NASA, he developed satellite-based instrumentation, patented new technologies and saw his projects launched into orbit.

Miller was a devoted Christian and ministered to high school students through Young Life for more than 30 years. He received the Jim Rayburn Award for his service. He had a heart for the homeless, and served Union Mission, NEST and the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, June Bundy Miller of Norfolk, and their two children.

Ellen P. Harvey

Ellen P. Harvey, the longtime president of the Lambert's Point Civic League and friend to the university, died Aug. 29, 2013, at age 90.

Cecelia T. Tucker, ODU's assistant to the president for community relations, led a celebration of Harvey's life on Sept. 7, and announced that in recognition of Harvey's lifetime of work, ODU President John R. Broderick initiated a scholarship in her name of $3,000 per year in tuition and $1,000 per year for books.

Hundreds of children who grew up in the Lambert's Point community near ODU owe a great deal to Harvey, Tucker said. "She was relentless in her pursuit with City Council of a place in the community where children could go and have fun under the protection of people who cared for them." Harvey's efforts resulted in the opening of the Lambert's Point Community Center in 2010.

Harvey received the ODU Community Service Award in 2011 and the Town-N-Gown Community Service Award in 1992. "She was a remarkable lady in every sense of the word. Norfolk, Lambert's Point and Old Dominion were all blessed to have such a tireless worker and advocate for so many young people. As a community leader, she is irreplaceable," Broderick said.

Harvey also worked in ODU’s Lambert’s Point Summer Program and at James Monroe Elementary School. Tucker said the relationship between the Lambert’s Point community and ODU has grown significantly stronger, in part because of Harvey's efforts and passion.

Gene G. Newman

Gene G. Newman, a longtime employee of the U.S. Department of Defense who was integral in bringing the discipline of modeling and simulation to Old Dominion, died Sept. 8, 2013, following a long illness. A resident of Chesapeake, Newman was 81.

Newman was given the responsibility of growing the capability of modeling and simulation (M&S) in the Hampton Roads region in the early 1990s through the U.S. Joint Forces Command center in Suffolk. His efforts were instrumental in the development of ODU as one of the country's leading research institutions in M&S, and the growth of the M&S industry in Hampton Roads.

“Gene Newman was a visionary; he sensed that modeling and simulation could become an important part of the region's economy,” said James V. Koch, president emeritus of ODU. “What we see today in Hampton Roads in modeling and simulation often reflects early choices and decisions made by him.”

Through a professional relationship with Dick Whalen, ODU’s military liaison at the time, Newman briefed school officials about the military needs and research opportunities within the emerging M&S field. "Gene … was such a good ambassador for ODU, because he saw the opportunity for partnerships between the school and Department of Defense,” Whalen said.

The university’s Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC), a multidisciplinary research center based in Suffolk, is one of the country’s leading academic research centers in M&S. ODU is now the only university in the country to offer an undergraduate degree in modeling, simulation and visualization engineering, which extends through postdoctoral studies.

VMASC Executive Director John Sokolowski also remembered Newman: “Without him, we would not be here. Gene Newman was the person who really had the vision to establish VMASC and modeling and simulation in this area. He was the most significant player in M&S for ODU, Hampton Roads and the Department of Defense. He will truly be missed.”

Newman is survived by his wife of 22 years, Bettina R. Newman, a son and two daughters.
Academic Honors Add Luster to Performance of ODU Athletes

BY WOOD SELIG
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Monarch fans have much to cheer about in 2014, as our ODU student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom and on the playing fields, and a new stadium for the football program was approved by the University’s Board of Visitors in early December.

Three Monarch teams were recognized in October in the latest NCAA Graduation Success Rate Report. The women’s golf team, field hockey and men’s swimming programs reported 100 percent graduation success. Twelve of our 18 teams have a team GPA of 3.0 or greater and nearly one-third of our 450 student-athletes earned Dean’s List last year.

The academic results for our men’s and women’s teams reflect one of our better overall academic performances in recent years. Such academic success illustrates the academic quality of the students our coaches are recruiting, as well as the academic dedication of our student-athletes, academic coordinators and coaches.

On the playing field, we enjoyed another very successful fall, with two of our four teams advancing to NCAA postseason play, and football posting its fifth consecutive winning season at 8-4.

In the fall of 2014, our football team will compete in Conference USA and be eligible for a C-USA championship. Thank you to the 12th Monarchs for their loyal support, which resulted in our fifth consecutive sellout season at Foreman Field at S.B. Ballard Stadium. We have now sold out 35 consecutive home games, the longest college sellout streak in Virginia. The atmosphere at our home games is one of the best in the country and we are already counting down the days to our 2014 opener against Hampton on Aug. 30. With home games against Hampton, Eastern Michigan and four C-USA teams, and road trips to N.C. State and Vanderbilt, you want to make sure you renew your tickets for the 2014 season by the April 30 deadline.

Head men’s soccer coach Alan Dawson led the Monarchs to their fourth straight and 10th overall appearance in the NCAA tournament in 12 years. En route, the team knocked off Central Florida, Tulsa, South Carolina, Charlotte and UAB and posted an 11-6-1 record. Congratulations also go to senior Tim Hopkinson, who was a semifinalist for the prestigious Hermann Trophy, symbolic of the nation’s top collegiate soccer student-athlete.

The field hockey program, led by new head coach Andrew Griffiths, shook up the national polls with a 12-game winning streak that included wins over then No. 1-ranked Maryland, No. 4-ranked North Carolina and No. 5-ranked UConn in a seven-day stretch. Competing as an associate member of the Big East Conference, the Lady Monarchs lost to UConn in overtime in the Big East championship game. The Huskies went on to win the NCAA national championship on Nov. 24 in Norfolk, hosted by ODU at the L.R. Hill Complex. We have recently been awarded the NCAA tournament again in 2016.

Probably the news with the most impact for athletics in 2014 is the approval of the University’s Campus Master Plan, which includes construction of a new football stadium near the Elizabeth River. We will also soon begin the design process for our state-of-the-art men’s and women’s basketball practice complex, adjacent to the “Ted.”

Our winter sports teams will wind down their seasons in March with the men’s and women’s basketball teams competing in the C-USA tournament in El Paso, swimming vying for C-USA honors in Atlanta and wrestling competing for the Mid-American Conference title at Kent State. Our spring sports get under way in mid-February with baseball’s home opener set for Feb. 21 against St. John’s at “The Bud,” and mark your calendar for a big showdown with U.Va. on April 29 at Harbor Park. Our fans can follow all of our sports online with live streaming at www.odusports.com and 20 of the Monarch baseball games will be aired this spring on Star 1310 AM radio in Hampton Roads.

Our alumni are a vital component for our athletic success. Thank you for supporting our 450 student-athletes who represent us so well on our nine men’s and nine women’s athletic teams. We hope to see you throughout the year at our events, home or on the road, and wish you the best throughout 2014.
At an age when most boys wanted to be a fireman or an astronaut or a pro baseball player, Bill DeKraker ’95 had other ideas. He dreamed of being a professional football scout. Fifth-graders don’t normally make a life decision like that. But DeKraker stuck to the plan.

“Even when I was in high school and some of my teammates were talking about wanting to coach some day, I had other ideas,” DeKraker said. “I wanted to be a guy supplying the Jimmys and Joes, not drawing the Xs and Os. I wanted to have a hand in who the players on a roster would be.”

These days, DeKraker does just that as northeast regional scout for the Dallas Cowboys. He’s been with the Cowboys for six years after spending the previous eight with the Arizona Cardinals. In fact, he’s spent all but one year – when he dipped his toe into the college football scene at Indiana University – with NFL franchises since he graduated from college.

The craziest thing about it all is that he didn’t come out of some football factory-type university like Alabama or Ohio State or Oklahoma. He didn’t even play college football.

He graduated from Old Dominion University at a time when ODU didn’t even have a football program. But that didn’t keep him from honing his football management skills while in college. DeKraker, 41, is a graduate of ODU’s sports management program.

“I worked for the Hampton Roads Sharks, the semi-pro team, for 18 months while I was at ODU,” said DeKraker, who played outside linebacker at Fairfax High before enrolling at ODU. “So I was prepping myself as best I could.”

“I contacted every NFL team my senior year at ODU and the Washington Redskins offered me a job in their marketing department coming out of school. It was pretty much my dream team because I’d grown up a Redskins fan in northern Virginia.”

And why not? The 1980s were the golden era for the Redskins, the days of head coach Joe Gibbs, and star players like Joe Theismann, John Riggins, Art Monk and Darrell Green. And The Hogs. There was much success.

DeKraker joined the Redskins in May 1995, spent almost two years with the organization and struck up a friendship with then-general manager Charley Casserly that continues today.

“Charley lives in the D.C. area now and teaches sports management classes at George Mason University and Georgetown,” DeKraker said. “I’ve sat in on a couple of them to hear what he has to say and he’s really good at it.”

After the Redskins, DeKraker spent a year at Indiana as a recruiting assistant and then moved on to join the Carolina Panthers organization, working with Bill Polian. Then it was on to the Cardinals before landing with the Cowboys.

These days, the typical week has DeKraker on the road.

“Say, for instance, I’m working the Pennsylvania region. I’d probably start at West Virginia on Monday, visit Pitt on Tuesday and Penn State on Wednesday. I’ll use Thursday to visit a couple of Division III schools in the state to see if they have anyone who might be good enough. Friday is usually a travel day for college football teams, so that’s the day that I get a lot of my paperwork done. Then I’ll catch a game at Rutgers or Princeton on Saturday.”

He was thrilled to put ODU on his list of schools to visit a couple of years back. He made his first visit before the Monarchs had even played their first game.

“I hadn’t been back to ODU for a while and was amazed at the growth,” DeKraker said.

With today’s Internet, the art of scouting players isn’t so much about finding the talent as it is deciding if a player is “the right fit” for an organization.

“Everyone knows about the high-end talent because the TV guys talk about it constantly,” DeKraker said. “Where a scout makes a difference these days is in the decisions an organization makes in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh rounds of the draft and in free agency.”

DeKraker enjoys the job, particularly because the region he serves allows him to be at home with some regularity to spend time with his sons, Billy, 8, and Tyler, 6. And his wife, Mariela (Araujo ’97), whom he met his senior year at ODU.

“One day I think I’d like to be a college recruiting director,” DeKraker said. “But for now, I like what I’m doing.

“At first I thought it might be hard working for the Cowboys and living in northern Virginia. But I discovered that for every two Redskins fans where I live, there’s one Cowboys fan. It’s not as bad as you might think.”
Old Dominion University’s most successful men’s basketball player of all time is spending time behind the microphone this season. Dave Twardzik, whose retired jersey number hangs in the rafters of the Ted Constant Convocation Center, signed on last fall to provide color radio commentary for Monarchs road games. Twardzik also is participating in a six-minute pregame segment for home games, discussing the upcoming game with radio regulars Billy Mann and Rick Kiefner.

How this all came about is somewhat amusing. Twardzik, point guard for the 1977 NBA champion Portland Trail Blazers, had attended a meet-and-greet barbeque for new men’s basketball coach Jeff Jones and the team. During the barbeque, athletic director Wood Selig struck up a conversation and told Twardzik that the Monarchs were in the market for a radio analyst.

The next day, Twardzik was in the market for a sandwich. Staying at a friend’s house near the ODU campus, he found a bicycle in the garage and pedaled up to Taste Unlimited. Or as he said, “that sandwich shop where the old Bazemore’s used to be.”

“So I’m standing there in line waiting to pick up my order when I hear someone behind me holler, ‘Dave!’ It was Wood Selig.”

Selig took the opportunity to again mention the analyst position and say he was serious about wanting to talk to Twardzik about it. Twardzik, in turn, took him seriously.

For the uninitiated, ODU has signed up a fellow who is made for this job. Monarch Nation’s older generation fans most certainly remember Twardzik. But for the younger ones, here are the high points of a long and distinguished career.

• He took ODU to the Division II national title game in 1971.
• He played for the Virginia Squires in the American Basketball Association, the league that brought the red, white and blue basketball into vogue.
• After the ABA folded, Twardzik signed with the Portland Trail Blazers as a free agent and won an NBA title while playing with the legendary Bill Walton.

• Twardzik eventually spent nearly 30 years in the front offices of a handful of NBA teams, his last stop coming with the Orlando Magic.

Simply put, Dave Twardzik is a basketball guy. As the season was starting, he said that he was looking forward to giving ODU fans a little inside knowledge about the game and why it’s played the way it is today.

Plus, it won’t be his first stint behind the microphone. After he retired from the Trail Blazers in 1980, Twardzik spent five years as Portland’s color analyst, breaking down the game played at its highest level.

“I was working with a legend in Bill Schonely, Portland’s play-by-play guy, and I learned quickly in radio that it’s all about the play-by-play,” Twardzik said. “A color guy’s job is just to get in and get out with a comment here or there.”

Playing on an NBA championship team, being an ABA All-Star in 1975 when he was playing for the Squires, and working alongside a radio legend in Bill Schonely … all of it was a long way from Twardzik’s humble beginnings.
Born in the shadow of the Hershey’s Chocolate factory in Pennsylvania, Twardzik came south to play at ODU at the urging of then-coach Sonny Allen. Although it’s hard to fathom, the scholarship offer from ODU was the only one Twardzik received, even though Twardzik had led his high school squad to a 29-1 record and a state championship.

Allen first saw Twardzik play during a post-season all-star game between local counties. “It was about on the level of Norfolk vs. Virginia Beach,” Twardzik said. “He comes up and says, ‘Son, I’m Sonny Allen and I’d like you to play basketball for me.’ He told me that in his system I’d have the ball in my hands 90 percent of the time and that he wanted to fly me down to Norfolk for an official visit. I didn’t hear much more after that. All I knew was that he was flying me down on a Friday and back on a Monday and I’d get out of going to school both of those days.”

Twardzik says that he and Allen still talk “about once every two or three weeks. I usually tell him I don’t know where I’d be had he not made me that offer to play at ODU. I’d probably be working at the power plant at Three Mile Island in Middletown, Pa.”

Twardzik said his approach to radio commentary has its roots with former Trail Blazers coach and Hall of Famer Jack Ramsay. “Jack was never condescending on the air,” Twardzik said. “He could explain the game to the layman. Besides, it’s not brain surgery. It’s basketball.”

Twardzik said he’s both excited and curious to see where Jones will take the current edition of the Monarchs following the struggles of last season’s team. “Jeff’s an excellent teacher of the game, he has a system, and he holds the players accountable, which is something that many coaches don’t do in this day and age,” Twardzik said. “It’s going to be a process for both the coach and the players this season. Jeff will have to alter what he normally teaches some, and the players will have to alter their approach. It could all be about how quickly they adapt to one another.”

Twardzik, however, should have very little to adapt to. He’s analyzing a game he grew to love and a game that has loved him back.

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If the first comprehensive survey of Old Dominion University football fans is any indication, ODU supporters are very engaged in the success of their team. A small group of M.B.A. students led by Kiran Karande, professor of marketing at ODU, spent the fall semester taking the pulse of ODU football fans, conducting a focus group and then a comprehensive survey. The initiative was a partnership between Karande’s class and ODU Athletics to conduct a thorough analysis of Old Dominion football fans, to understand the attitudes and preferences of fans who attend football games, identify variables of fan engagement, and develop recommendations for increasing that engagement with ODU fans. One suggestion: Offer more family entertainment options on campus on game days.

“I am always looking for hands-on opportunities for my students,” said Karande, instructor of MBA 698, the Corporate Field Project.

Last year, Karande’s class did an analysis for the Virginia Stage Company, making suggestions for how to run that business more efficiently. Looking for another project this fall, Karande contacted Athletic Director Wood Selig, who has a Ph.D himself and immediately saw the value of such a study. “Business and marketing decisions grounded in research and backed by concrete data generally yield better results than strategies based on hunches and anecdotal information,” Selig said.

The final report was presented to senior athletics officials just before Thanksgiving.

“The graduate students did a very thorough job from start to finish and it was evident from their presentation that they understood how passionate and responsive our fans are as well,” said Debbie White, senior associate athletic director. “With a 27 percent response rate, well above the average, we feel the survey results will provide us great fan information going forward regarding ODU football game day, season tickets and fan amenities.”

For Karande and his students, the rapid response rate was surprising, and illustrative of the passion of Old Dominion fans. After four days, more than 1,000 of the 4,000 lengthy online surveys sent to fans had been completed. “We know that there is intense interest in the team, that’s for sure,” Karande said.

In their presentation, the student research team suggested that ODU Athletics continue to focus on the game day experience, which football fans rate really highly, and consider an important component of Monarch football. Game day suggestions from the fans included improvements to concessions, increasing family entertainment options, and promoting unique ODU traditions.

Other fan engagement opportunities identified by fans include highlighting the team’s successes through advertising and the ODU Athletics website, and helping to build relationships with fans through contests and discussion forums. The research team also cautioned ODU Athletics “to be careful not to change what fans like,” Karande said, such as the new traditions that have been established at football games.

Interestingly, the team of researchers that conducted the study this semester wouldn’t fit any stereotyped, football-centric image.

Karande himself is a former marketing professional from India in the snack food industry, who was first exposed to American football while pursuing his doctorate at the University of Houston. His student researchers include a former nonprofit employee from Wisconsin (Kara Coates), an accountant from Ukraine (Natalie Hetman), an ODU information technology specialist (Candice Goodin) and a Navy lieutenant and biomedical engineering graduate (Wyatt Beyer).

Beyer is the group’s outlier as the lone fanatical football fan, having spent time as the Cavalier mascot while studying at the University of Virginia. “The biggest thing has been the little things that we’ve learned, such as how attached fans are to the cannon (the military howitzer that fires when ODU scores),” Beyer said. “We wouldn’t have guessed that in a million years. It’s great training for anticipating the unexpected in business.”
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Snow, Snow and More Snow

Old Dominion was closed for three full days and parts of two other days in January because of snow and ice. But many students still were busy with studies during the snow days, and some managed to do their athletic training. The runners on campus here are members of the ODU Women’s Lacrosse Club. About 3 inches of snow fell on Jan. 21-22, and another 9 inches fell on Jan. 28-29. This photo by David Hollingsworth was taken on Jan. 30.

Great photography certainly lifts a magazine, and we at Monarch are eager beneficiaries of your exceptional images. For the Last Look page, we accept photographs from anyone in the ODU community. In selecting photos for the page, we are looking particularly for images that illustrate ODU’s attributes, such as our beautiful campus, innovative teaching, exceptional research and arts programs, an engaged and successful alumni network, and the international focus of our diverse university community.

Send submissions to jraper@odu.edu.
Joan Nusbaum was as multifaceted as the loves in her life: her family at the center, surrounded by friends, art and music, combined with interests in medicine and education and sprinkled with a sense of adventure. Over her lifetime, Joan became a philanthropist who believed in giving back to her community.

Joan was brought up in a middle-class family where she was able to enjoy many advantages. That environment made her realize later on how blessed she had been and from that grew a charitable heart. Joan’s family moved to Norfolk when she was just a few years old. An only child, Joan became outgoing and friendly. She grew up in Ghent and attended Maury High School before attending Old Dominion University. Joan took art classes under Jean Outland Chrysler, who also took her students on field trips to New York City.

Joan married Joseph Nusbaum, from Philadelphia, who joined the family insurance business following their marriage. Together they raised three wonderful daughters: Nancy Albinder, class of 1971; Carol Jo Bays; and Janis Hollenback MS ’79. Joan and Joe enjoyed classical music and outings to the Virginia Symphony. They began collecting art while in their 40s and 50s. Over the years, music became Joe’s passion and art Joan’s. Joan loved traveling, and she collected art—from primitive to classical to modern. The result is an eclectic collection of things she loved.

While family was always paramount to Joan, time spent with her daughters and grandchildren became even more precious after Joe’s untimely death in 1994. While Joan enjoyed family gatherings, she also relished intimate time with her daughters and grandchildren. When the family spread out, Joan would phone regularly, keeping in touch individually with family members. Joan’s daughter Nancy smiles as she shares a photo of Joan in Disney World with her great-granddaughter and her parents. It was a special trip Joan had planned for the small group to enjoy each other and the wonder of Mickey Mouse. At Joan’s death, she had been blessed with seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Later in life, Joan saw the many needs in her community and stepped forward to make a difference in her own quiet way. Joan was also interested in making a few social changes, and in that arena, she led by example. Filled with great compassion, Joan acted on the needs surrounding her. Philanthropy became even more important to Joan in her later years.

Nancy said that her mother would have liked being characterized as a philanthropist. One very generous gift was a donation Joan made to Old Dominion University, consisting of apartments housing ODU students. In exchange for the property, Joan received income for the remainder of her lifetime. Gone were any worries about the upkeep of the property and Joan moved to Florida for several years.

When Joan returned she became an enthusiastic Monarch athletics fan. Joan privately enjoyed seeing the impact her gift had made in establishing the villages along Monarch Way. Joan’s gifts, however, didn’t just make a difference in the enhanced campus expansion; it was also instrumental in improving student life at Old Dominion University and attracting future students.

To see how other alumni and friends are supporting ODU, please visit www.odu.edu/plannedgiving

Have you made a provision to leave a future gift to Old Dominion University? If so, please let us know so we may thank you. Please contact Barbara Henley, Director of Planned Giving, at 757-683-6563 or bhenley@odu.edu, or visit our estate planning website at www.odu.edu/plannedgiving
SPRING CAMPUS EVENTS

February

26 – March 6  “The Outsider,” a play by Wolfgang Borchert, Goode Theatre, Feb. 26-28, March 1, 4-6, 7:30 p.m.; March 2 at 2 p.m., Tickets: $15 students, $20 general

March

1 – Aug. 31  “Fire and the Resurrection of Mr. Imagination.” Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries

4  ODU Brass Choir, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.

6  President’s Lecture Series, Christine Brennan, sports commentator, Webb University Center, 7:30 p.m.

18  Agnes and Friends, faculty recital, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.

20  President’s Lecture Series, Lytton Musselman Natural History Lecture, Mark W. Moffett, ecologist and photojournalist, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.

24  F. Ludwig Diehn Concert, Lambert Orkis and David Hardy, in conjunction with the 27th annual Harold Protzman Classical Period Piano Competition, Chandler Recital Hall, 8 p.m., Tickets: $10 students, $15 general

29  Russell Stanger String Quartet Competition, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 4 p.m.

29 – April 20  Annual Student Juried Show, Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries

April

6  ODU Wind Ensemble, Atrium, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 3 p.m.

8  Collegium Musicum and Madrigal Singers, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.

8  President’s Lecture Series, Jose Antonio Vargas, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Webb University Center, 7:30 p.m.

9-19  “Really, Really,” a play by Paul Downs Colaizzo, Goode Theatre, April 9-12, 16-19 at 7:30 p.m.; April 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets: $15 students, $20 general

10, 11, 14  Open clinics with Nicki Parrott. Call 757-683-4061 for details

13  ODU Jazz Ensemble and Choir with Nicki Parrott, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 4 p.m.

14  F. Ludwig Diehn Concert, Nicki Parrott with the John Toomey Trio, Chandler Recital Hall, 8 p.m., Tickets: $10 students, $15 general

16-19  University Dance Theatre, Spring Concert, University Theatre, April 16-19, 8 p.m.; April 19 at 2 p.m., Tickets: $12 students, $14 general

17  ODU Percussion Ensemble, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.

21  Norfolk Chamber Consort marks its 45th anniversary, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., Tickets: $22 general, $9 students, at the door or from the Norfolk Chamber Consort

22  ODU Brass Choir, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.

26  ODU Symphony Orchestra: Romantic Symphonists, University Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

27  University Concert Choir and Diehn Chorale perform “Les Miserables,” Atrium, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 3 p.m.

28  “Remember and Rejoice,” Eastern Virginia Brass with the I. Sherman Greene Chorale, ODU Diehn Chorale and Schola Cantorum, Attucks Theater, 1010 Church St., Norfolk, 7:30 p.m., Tickets: $5, through the Virginia Arts Festival, 757-282-2822

28  New Music Ensemble, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.

May

1 – 11, Spring Senior Show, Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries

(See oduartstix.com and al.odu.edu/art/gallery for more information. Unless otherwise noted, events are free and open to the public.)