Graduate News

Office of Graduate Studies, Old Dominion University

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MEET THE NEW VICE PROVOST, BRIAN PAYNE

This spring, former faculty member and chair of the department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at ODU, Dr. Brian Payne, was selected as the new Vice Provost for Graduate and Undergraduate Programs. Prior to his return, Payne chaired the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology at Georgia State University for six years.

As Vice Provost, he will be working with the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Carol Simpson, as well as the Vice Provost for Faculty Development, Chandra deSilva. Payne will be responsible for overseeing the review process for the graduate programs. “I recognize the importance of graduate education, and our responsibility to serve our graduate students. My job is to look for ways to make our graduate programs run more effectively,” Payne said. He is dedicated to raising the graduate student profile at ODU to the highest degree. Some of the goals on Payne’s agenda are: optimizing the use of on-campus spaces for graduate students, increasing interdisciplinary research across the colleges, addressing the need for a graduate health insurance option, and enhancing the overall quality of graduate student life.

Another one of his aspirations is to see ODU become a model for interdisciplinarity on the graduate level. Payne believes that in this way, students will be more prepared for the challenges and opportunities in the real world: “Traditionally, we train graduate students strictly within their silos, and the real world does not function like this,” said Payne. He believes that a good way to promote this type of work is to create opportunities for students to naturally interact with each other on campus. Payne envisions the development of a social-work space which will serve as a hub for graduate students, possibly in the Learning Commons or the Student Success Center at the Perry Library.

We look forward to these developments, and welcome Dr. Payne back to ODU!

GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION (GSO) 2013-2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Old Dominion University’s Graduate Student Organization has a new executive board as of this semester. The board members are: President-Yasmine Farley; Vice President-Raleta Summers; Public Relations Chair-Dot Collins; Treasurer-Hany SalahEldeen; Secretary-Ange-Lionel Toba.

In her address to the graduate student community at ODU, Farley states: “The 2013-2014 Executive Board of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) sends greetings to all new and returning graduate students at Old Dominion University. We are excited to be back and look forward to a great year! Our goal for this academic year is to create a community and environment for ODU’s graduate students from all disciplines, to come together as a network of support and professional development. We look forward to hosting workshops which aim to better the graduate student experiences as a professional. We plan on organizing social events which will allow students a relief from the heavy studying load, as well as give students the opportunity to express their ideas and concerns as graduate students. If you are looking for a group of friends and colleagues that understand your plight as a graduate student, be sure to join GSO on OrgSync!”

For more information, email GSO at: monarchgso@gmail.com.

Or, join them on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Dominion-University-Graduate-Student-Organization.
In July, graduate students Alex Proaps and Becca Kennedy represented Old Dominion University’s Human Factors Psychology PhD program by attending the User Experience Professionals Association (UXPA) International Conference in Washington, D.C. UXPA 2013 was sponsored and hosted by the International and the DC chapters of UXPA. Students and professionals from around the world attended the conference. This year’s conference theme, “Collaboration,” saturated the four day conference of keynotes, tutorials, workshops, presentations, panels, and poster sessions.

User experience (or UX) professionals are designers and researchers who focus on human-centered design principles for products, services, and systems. They are concerned with an individual’s (or a group’s) emotions, beliefs, preferences, perceptions, and behaviors while using technology and user interfaces. UX professionals ensure user interfaces like iPhones, an emergency response company’s website, or the dashboard of a car, are safe, efficient, and enjoyable. They do so by testing usability, expert reviews, and other techniques.

ODU students volunteered, chaired sessions and workshops, and presented research at the conference. The conference was a great opportunity for graduate students to represent the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society student chapter. “One of the most rewarding aspects of attending this particular conference was learning from individuals with a wide variety of education and experience,” said Proaps.

Proaps and Kennedy say that it can be incredibly rewarding to attend conferences above and beyond those that represent a student’s main area of study, even if they feel as thought they might be moving a bit out of their academic comfort zone. They advise other graduate students who are looking for conference funding options to look for volunteering positions at those conferences. The Student Government Association (SGA) and the Office of Leadership & Student Involvement (formerly OSAL) at ODU can also help with funding a conference trip.

For more information go to the Student Engagement and Enrollment Service’s web page, or email them at: SEESTravel@odu.edu.
Everhart said.

Carole Everhart focuses mostly on pregnancies, childbirth and pediatric work, where as Dee Everhart performs regular annual exams for adults such as pap smears, breast exams, and driver physicals. Their scope of practice also includes some minor surgeries. The clinic does not accept any health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. All office visits cost $40.

The clinic is currently looking into obtaining a pharmacy as well. “The closest pharmacy to our clinic is about 12 miles away,” Everhart says. So far, they have been unable to receive a state grant to help with funding a pharmacy, but they are still looking into ways to make this possible. Dee, Carole, and Carole’s daughter Meghan, who is the office manager, are dedicated to making sure that people in their community can receive affordable, primary healthcare from the cradle to the grave. We are proud to have Dee and Carole Everhart as part of ODU’s graduate alumni community.
INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

FIELDS: Humanities and humanistic social sciences

ELIGIBILITY:
The program is open to graduate students in the humanities and social sciences -- regardless of citizenship -- enrolled in PhD programs in the United States. Applicants to the 2014 IDRF competition must complete all PhD requirements except on-site research by the time the fellowship begins or by December 2014, whichever comes first. Applicants from select disciplines within the humanities (Art History, Architectural History, Classics, Drama/Theater, Film Studies, Literature, Musicology, Performance Studies, Philosophy, Political Theory, and Religion) are welcome to request three or more months of funding for international on-site dissertation research (in combination with US-based research, for a total of nine to twelve months of funding).

STIPEND:
Fellowship amounts vary depending on the research plan, with a per-fellowship average of $20,000. The fellowship includes participation in an SSRC-funded interdisciplinary workshop upon the completion of IDRF-funded research.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 5, 2013

HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

FIELDS: All fields

ELIGIBILITY:
- Be of Hispanic heritage
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident with a permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551 (not expired)
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Have plans to enroll FULL-TIME at a U.S. accredited college or university in the U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands or Guam during the 2014-2015 academic year
- Must apply for federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in 2014

STIPEND:
$1000 TO $5000