Assignment:
French Polynesia
Old Dominion University’s College of Business and Public Administration has opened the Trading Room in Constant Hall, which features 20 state-of-the-art Bloomberg Terminals that are portals to all of the real-time information that Bloomberg and other news and financial services collect and analyze. The college’s dean, Gil Yochum, said the Trading Room “will benefit the entire campus. Whenever we have the ability to integrate real-world data into classrooms, it’s a great platform from which to ask questions and find answers. It doesn’t matter if you’re in finance, engineering or the social sciences. It’s a resource.” Shown here is Mohammad Najand, professor of finance, teaching an Investment Fund course in the Trading Room. The renowned Bloomberg Terminal is an iconic presence on trading floors around the world. But it’s no mere symbol. It is billed as the most useful tool available to financial professionals today.
From the Editor

I met Al Rollins, and immediately liked him for his wit and wisdom, while he was president of ODU in the 1980s and I was a newspaper editor in Norfolk. I saw him occasionally in recent years after I joined ODU, and the wit and wisdom were still there. From the memorial service conducted on campus (see article, page 10) after Al died in February, and from communicating with his widow, Helen Jones, we learned a lot about his affection for this university. From a note Helen sent to me:

“ODU was a university he cherished and, because he had the pleasure of a very long life, he continued to revel in watching the university grow, prosper and become an exceedingly beautiful campus. In all of his years being known as President Rollins and then Al, he was thrilled to see your continued nourishment of the campus – the buildings and grounds, the growth in graduate studies, the interdisciplinary approach applied across campus, the awards won by students as well as faculty, and the incredible diversity of its faculty, staff and students.

“After retiring, Al took fiction-writing classes, attended all the events he wanted to attend, used the library, walked the campus for exercise and pleasure, often used a Sailing Center bench at sunset to ponder whatever needed pondering, became an active gym member, watched the women play basketball, and tried all the different foods now served at the Webb Center.

“In his very last years, he was awed by the quality of our Physical Therapy Department that provided him with sensitive students who – one after another – helped him maintain his balance, mobility and sense of grace.”

Thank you, Helen, for sharing those words. Monarch readers will also want to read her Letter to the Editor (see page 4) thanking ODU administrators and staffers for organizing the memorial service.

I hope all of the content in this issue appeals to you. Feel free to contact me at jraper@odu.edu if you have questions, comments or suggestions.

-Jim Raper
Confucius Institute
These dancers wearing colorful costumes perform Chinese folk dances during the ceremony in April to celebrate the opening of a Confucius Institute at Old Dominion University, a partnership between ODU and Minzu University in Beijing, China. The festivities included a world musical premiere, ribbon dancers, martial arts demonstrations and official speeches.
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Heartfelt Gratitude

This letter of heartfelt gratitude is one I wish to share with the entire ODU community. On Feb. 20 of this year, Alfred Brooks Rollins Jr., my husband, and third president of ODU, died. President Broderick’s immediate call of care and concern transformed itself into a deluge of staff’s readiness from all corners of the campus. They created a memorial service to honor Al’s spirit, his thoughts and his service.

Karen Meier from Events and Community Relations visited us at home along with Donna Meeks, secretary to the Board of Visitors. We felt from that first meeting that Karen and her staff knew precisely how to devote time, sensitivity and experience to bring graceful form to Al’s wishes. They knew how to re-purpose the Webb Center for the memorial service. The Webb Center crews who are expert at lighting and audio, the staff who knew how to transform a cafeteria into a place of honor and, of course, food service all created a glowing service and reception.

And, it all came together as Karen held my hand. Perfectly calm one day, tense or dithering another, I was not of much use except for more last-minute requests: a search for a photo, a desire for a song. Under her direction, it all came together.

Our music department chair, John Toomey, graciously gave of his talent to play our favorite songs, “It Had To Be You,” as those in attendance viewed the incredible collection of photographs put together by Lex Park, the multimedia specialist. The photographs, and many of the other details that a presentation like this requires, were handled by Christina Lipuma of Events. She had help from a graduate student, Bethany Doyle, who never knew Al. But it was she who searched the archives finding photos of Al bearded and sans beard during his years at ODU.

And, of course, all this was done in an extremely short time frame. It was a lasting reminder to me, to Al’s children and to his extended family and friends that Old Dominion’s spirit is what makes this community unique. Many, many thanks.

Helen Anrod Jones
Norfolk, Va.

Regarding the Northern Lapwing

I enjoyed the article about the Northern Lapwing sighting (“First Northern Lapwing Sighting,” Winter 2013) and wanted you to know that I feel sure that we saw a pair before superstorm Sandy. My husband and I were on Chesapeake Beach on the day that the tall ships were making their way to Waterside for Harborfest last summer. After we had been there for a little while, a pair of birds flew over and roosted near the pole on a volleyball net. Exactly like the picture in the Monarch! Had the same markings and that plum!

All I know was that they flew over from the dune side of the beach. Maybe they’re very rare, but they are here!

Janet Miller ’74
Virginia Beach, Va.

Thanks for Heinicke Article

Just a quick note to let you know how much I enjoyed Rich Radford’s article on Taylor Heinicke in the Monarch Magazine (“Anonymous No More,” Winter 2013). I thought I knew almost everything about this great ambassador for ODU, but I was wrong. It was nice to read that Taylor does not like the spotlight focused on him and he gives much of the credit for his success to others around him. He truly is a remarkable young man and not just on the football field.

Looking forward to the next issue of the Monarch Magazine.

Jill E. Fox
Experiential Learning and Testing
Student Success Center
Old Dominion University

Remembering Fred W. Culpepper Jr.

Fred Culpepper, who passed away in December 2012, was professor emeritus at Old Dominion University and the first chairman of the Industrial Arts (now Technology Education) Department. He held that position for many years while actively teaching in the classroom. Some 40 years of his life were dedicated to teaching young men and women about general technology and specifically, electronics technology.

I met Fred in the late spring of 1964 and had the privilege of knowing him for almost 50 years. The Industrial Arts Department was small when I was an undergraduate, with two full-time instructors, not counting Fred, a couple of part-time instructors, and about two dozen students pursuing a degree. We were more or less a family where everyone knew everyone else. This was due in large part to Fred’s leadership style and his agreeable working relationship with both staff and students. Because of Fred’s kindness, guidance and encouragement, I graduated from Old Dominion College and became a technology teacher for the Norfolk Public Schools system. For many of my 30 years in the classroom, Fred would send me one or two students each year for their intern teaching experience. For me to have pursued a successful career in education would not have happened had I not met Fred. He was a most kind, caring and loving individual who gave much and asked little in return, other than the best effort from those he taught. Farewell, Fred, and thank you — my teacher, my mentor, my friend.

Robert Warren ’67
Norfolk, Va.

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

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Letter from the Provost

Idea Fusion at Its Very Best

Interdisciplinary research can be the most difficult, and yet most rewarding, activity for faculty and students to conduct. Difficult, because the researchers need to understand fundamental concepts and basic jargon of disciplines other than their own. Rewarding, because collaborations across different disciplines very often result in significant breakthroughs. Here at ODU we have made some great strides in recent years with the help of multidisciplinary seed fund competitions from our Office of Research, as well as grants from external funding agencies.

Our Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Initiative is an excellent example of our approach to a highly complex, interdisciplinary problem. Climate scientists, oceanographers, glaciologists and atmospheric chemists provide data and explanations for what has happened in the past, what is happening now, and what is likely to happen in the future to ocean water temperatures and the melting of ice sheets. There may be debate in some circles about the underlying causes of sea level rise, but the data is indisputable—indeed simple—such as a pair of photographs taken decades apart. Sophisticated computer models created by our oceanographers, geographical information systems (GIS) scientists, and researchers at the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC) use the data to help understand the effects that more frequent and more intense hurricanes or differing amounts of sea level rise are likely to have in coastal areas such as Hampton Roads. These models are continually being refined to help predict the amount and duration of inundation to expect from different categories of storms and different degrees of storm surge.

It then falls to the coastal and structural engineers to design and build structures that can mitigate the effects of rising sea level on our coastal cities and other vulnerable population areas, as well as our ports, military installations and other important infrastructures that are at, or very near, sea level.

Urban planners, city managers, transportation analysts, real estate developers, health providers and the insurance industry all work alongside faculty and graduate students from each of ODU’s colleges and VMASC to understand the long-range impacts on the region so that they can plan accordingly.

A critical component in this interdisciplinary endeavor is the role of the social sciences. Economists are assessing the impact of rising sea levels on our region’s businesses and industrial complexes. Our psychologists, sociologists, geographers and communications experts work together to understand all the issues involved and translate them for the general public, so that all can make informed decisions about where to live, build and invest. And all of our faculty work tirelessly with our students to help them appreciate the many roles that science, technology, the liberal arts and community engagement play in addressing these complex issues.

ODU’s Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Initiative is by no means the only interdisciplinary program to involve faculty and graduate student researchers from different colleges and departments. Other equally complex and important efforts are often the subject of articles in this publication, such as those involving our new Center for Global Health, Frank Reidy Research Center for Bio-electrics, Center for Innovative Transportation Solutions, Maritime Institute and others. Each of these research areas is centered on a critical problem that is best solved, and sometimes only solved, through the coordination of several different approaches. ODU’s graduate students and their faculty advisors from different colleges and departments work together daily to solve the most significant problems that face today’s and tomorrow’s world. This is Idea Fusion at its very best!

-Carol Simpson
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Faculty Vignettes: Lesley’s Lecture – ‘We applauded for at least five minutes’

(Editor’s note: Faculty Vignettes, which debuts with this issue of Monarch, will present brief profiles of exceptional teachers on the Old Dominion faculty who are remembered fondly by their former students.)

Monroe Duncan, the raconteur and restaurateur who is well-known in Hampton Roads as the former owner of fine dining establishments Suddenly Last Summer, Piranha and Simply Divine Dahlings, was “intellectually grazing” circa 1962 at the Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary, which would become ODU, when he experienced an extraordinary lecture.

His teacher was Parker Lesley, the course was art history and the subject of the lecture was the Isenheim Altarpiece now at the Unterlinden Museum in Colmar, Alsace, France. This fabled work, painted by Matthias Grunewald and sculpted by Niclaus of Hagenau in the 16th century for a church near Colmar, is known for its realistic crucifixion scene.

“He (Lesley) was so passionate and animated that the entire classroom became mesmerized and presentation of this magnificent altarpiece,” Duncan says. “He began by dousing the lights and at the end of the lecture he said, ‘…and God will come, and come quickly!’ Then, he flung open the back doors to the classroom and quietly, but dramatically left us with only the daylight streaming in through the open doors. We applauded for at least five minutes in hopes that he would make another appearance. However, he had gone, disappeared. He and we were so smitten by the presentation that it left us all stunned for a bit. He had delivered a magnificent and brilliant presentation, something Jimmy (James Perkinson, another student in the class and a friend of Duncan) and I never forgot. Even after all these years, it remains the most impressive, memorable and emotional lecture I have ever encountered among my sundry universities and colleges from Duke to UCLA, ad infinitum.”

That’s quite a compliment coming from Duncan. His performances as an animated chef in the open kitchens of his restaurants and as a radio personality are something of legend, too. So who was Parker Lesley, this Baltimore native who grew up in California and became an ODU professor?

For sure, Lesley was well qualified to be lecturing about European art treasures. His qualifications included a bachelor’s in classical literature from Stanford, a master’s in fine arts (archaeology) from Princeton, and certificates from the University of Paris and University of Brussels. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and rose to the rank of major while serving as one of the “Monuments Men” who helped to identify, recover and preserve valuable art pieces during and immediately after World War II.

Several years ago, in the Mailbag of the Old Dominion University magazine, Bob Shumate ’62 of Citrus Heights, Calif., contributed a letter remembering Lesley. “He was a wonderful store of knowledge on art history,” Shumate wrote. “I remember him telling us of a part of his experiences in saving art looted by Hitler.”

By the time Lesley moved to Norfolk – in 1959 to become acting director of the Norfolk Museum – he was widely traveled and could converse in and read almost all of the western European languages, including Greek.

He was appointed an assistant professor of art at the Norfolk Division, also in 1959, and became full professor in 1966 at what was then Old Dominion College. When he retired from Old Dominion University in 1979, he was an Eminent Professor. He died in 1982.

Lesley wrote a book, “Renaissance Jewels and Jeweled Objects,” and numerous magazine, journal and catalog articles, including two for Fortune Magazine. Examples of his writings, including his letters and travel diaries, are in The Papers of Everett Parker Lesley Jr. at ODU’s Perry Library. The papers were donated by Parker Lesley’s nephew, Mark Lesley, who is an adjunct mathematics professor at ODU.

An article by Richmond Times-Dispatch art critic F. D. Cossitt in 1976 praises the text Lesley wrote for a catalogue of the Virginia Museum’s Faberge collection. Cossitt describes Lesley as “the pride of the Old Dominion University faculty” and his prose as “spare, elegant and authoritative.”
John Fahey, who taught Russian at Old Dominion from 1966 to 1988, clearly was in a joyous mood early this year when 19 of his former students, representing three decades at the university, gathered for a reunion at the Charlestown Independent Living Community in Catonsville, Md., where their beloved professor now lives with his wife, Barbara. Vanessa Kiriluk of Portsmouth, who earned her degree in Russian in 1975, came up with the idea for the gathering, which took place Jan. 19. “I had spoken with one of my classmates just out of the blue, and it brought back such fond memories. I thought, ‘How wonderful it would be if we had a class reunion.’ Mr. Fahey was just a huge, positive influence on all of our lives,” said Kiriluk, who is now retired after 15 years with IBM and a subsequent career as a professional trainer and speaker.

Each of the former students who traveled to Catonsville that day brought with them special memories of Fahey, and of their time at ODU. Nancy Afman ’75, a psychiatric social worker for the past 30-plus years who has also done volunteer work in countries around the world, flew to Maryland from Bellevue, Wash. She was among the cadre of alumni who sang the praises of their favorite instructor for a video shot that day. “I was thrilled to be able to come to this reunion because Professor Fahey was just the greatest teacher I ever had in all of my college days. He had this way of motivating us to really study, to really find joy in learning something new, and he just kept it interesting,” she said.

Fahey certainly had plenty of stories to go along with his classroom instruction. A retired Navy commander and former director of the Navy Language School in Washington, D.C., he worked as a Russian linguist during the Cold War after studying Russian at Brown University. He was assigned to the Russian army as an American liaison officer in East Germany.

Fahey, who has written books about his experiences, was teaching at Norfolk Academy when asked to join the ODU faculty. In just a few years, due to his persistence, the university instituted a major in Russian language and literature.

“There were not any good textbooks at all above the second year, no matter where you went,” Fahey recalled. He assembled his own book for ODU’s upper-level classes, which included short stories by contemporary Russian authors, transcribed via a Russian language typewriter, and had audiotapes made by Russian natives. He also required each of his students to subscribe to a different Russian newspaper.

“They had a tough time going through Russian,” Fahey said. “But they were very patient and hardworking. I was very, very strict. I demanded two hours of study for every classroom hour, and I held to that. It was the only way to become fluent.”

Nonetheless, Fahey’s tough-love style of teaching and the care he and his wife had for his students always shone through – both on campus and during the summer study abroad trips he and his students went on to the Soviet Union. That love and care was reciprocal, as evidenced by the comments of his former students.

Jon Smith ’87, who has lived in Moscow for 15 years and currently is the director of a Russian language school there, was among those who shared their fond memories at the reunion. “It’s actually
thanks to John Fahey that I am where I am right now in life,” said Smith, who is the son of Don Smith, ODU associate professor of sociology and criminal justice. “He not only taught me Russian and took me on my first trip to Russia, but he also planted the love of Russian in me. He was one of the few people who believed in me and saw something in me, in my abilities, at a point when I didn’t even see it myself.”

Christopher Lee Philips ’82 (M.A. ’84) of Falls Church, Va., who owns Audio Americana LLC, where he records and produces audio books, and does acting on the side — he had a small role in Clint Eastwood’s “J. Edgar” — still remembers standing in line at registration in 1979, trying to decide what to major in and what courses to take. On the reunion video, he recalls his first encounter with Fahey: “There’s this gentleman, sort of meandering through the crowd, talking to the students. And he walks up to me and says, ‘You know, you should really study Russian.’”

Fahey’s former students are, indeed, an impressive lot. For example, there is Suzanne Beane Stafford ’69, the CEO of GDI, a division of Insight Data Corp., and nationally known attorney Allen Cannon III ’73. Stafford was elected nine years ago to membership as an Academician in the Russian Academy of Sciences at the 54th Presidium in Moscow, in recognition of her contributions to Russia in economics, management, marketing and education.

Although unable to attend the reunion, she sent Fahey a note after receiving a copy of the DVD. “Viewing the video brought so much joy and remembrance of those precious Old Dominion Russian class days,” she said, adding, “Your combination of integrity, scholarship and passionate focus are simply infectious for young people and a perfect calculus for instructors. You set the standard, the model, for all of the rest of us.”

Cannon, a partner in the law firm Perkins Coie, was the first African American to earn a degree in Russian at ODU. He went on to teach Russian at the University of Arizona, work at the CIA and earn a law degree at Georgetown. He thanked Fahey for the “amazing impact” he had on his life and noted: “When I started at the university, I had no idea that I would end up as a Russian major, and as you can imagine, there weren’t many at that time who went in thinking they were going to be Russian majors.”

Others attending the reunion included Alfreda Kemper Pohrivchak ’74, who kept Russian going after Fahey’s retirement, as well as two of Fahey’s children, who took classes with their father and majored in Russian.

Barbara Fahey DeBoy ’75 took full advantage of her degree, working for 30 years as a teacher and administrator at the National Security Agency, where she was honored as the NSA national school’s outstanding teacher. Fahey’s son, John Jr. ’72, currently the superintendent of Hopewell (Va.) Public Schools, previously worked in U.S. Army intelligence as a Russian translator, analyst and division chief.

Many of Fahey’s students went on to careers in the NSA, CIA and other government agencies. In fact, one such alumna who turned up at the luncheon was someone Fahey had not heard from in over 40 years. He had lost touch with Kathy Gammill, ODU’s first Russian major, ever since her graduation in 1971, and had been mystified by her lack of contact over the ensuing decades. At the reunion, Gammill explained the mystery of her “disappearance” to her former professor. “She told me that she was employed immediately after graduation by the CIA and went undercover for her entire career there,” said Fahey, who added with a smile, “She plans to visit me often.”

Fahey estimates that 85 students earned bachelor’s degrees in Russian during the 17 years ODU offered the major under his guidance. The reunion allowed a number of these former students to reconnect with him and with each other — to catch up on news of their lives, families and careers. But it was also an occasion to reminisce. For one day, the ODU graduates were transported back in time — to a very special period when they were young college students.

“To my surprise, the incentive for the reunion was to thank me for changing their lives,” said Fahey, who described the gathering as “lively and enjoyable.” It was also clear from his comments that these students changed his life as well, energizing him throughout his ODU career.

Reflecting on the reunion a few months later, Fahey said that both he and his wife, Barbara, who had hosted dinners and parties for his students back in the day and “helped them throughout the usual college-age tribulations,” were thrilled to see so many of them again. “We were like one great family,” Fahey said.
Alfred B. Rollins Jr., 91, a historian who served as Old Dominion University’s third president from 1976-85, died Feb. 20, 2013, in Norfolk. A memorial service was held on campus March 8.

Rollins directed Old Dominion through its transition from a regional college to a major research university, skillfully bringing about major growth in state and private funding, facilitating racial integration, expanding student services, establishing an honors program and a broader graduate education mission, and putting new focus on women’s athletics.

He was an accomplished writer of scholarly books and articles, as well as fiction. His best-known work as a historian was the book “Roosevelt and Howe.”

“We have lost one of our university’s great leaders,” said university President John R. Broderick. “He was a man of great vision, intelligence and soft-spoken strength. I will remember him as a kind and decent man who always had time for people. I have tried to emulate that in the way I conduct myself. Two decades ago when I was just starting out at this university, he was very gracious and very helpful to me. I’m sure a lot of administrators, faculty members and alumni can say the same thing about him.”

Rollins was born in Presque Isle, Maine, the son of a minister. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. Between degrees he was a World War II bomber pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with four clusters for service in the war. He attained the rank of first lieutenant.

He said in an ODU oral history interview in 1999 that he might have returned from the war and settled down as an insurance agent had it not been for the opportunity provided by the GI Bill. After receiving his master’s from Wesleyan, he earned a doctorate in history from Harvard University in 1953. He taught at the State University of New York, New Paltz, and at the University of Vermont, and he was a vice president at Vermont when he was chosen in 1976 to be president of ODU. After leaving the presidency, Rollins taught history at the university for six years before retiring.


“One of the great things about my coming here was that I could build on a very, very solid base that Lewis Webb and Jim Bugg had built,” Rollins said in the 1999 oral history. “The two of them had done an extraordinary job of building an institution.”

Throughout his tenure as president, Rollins demonstrated his strong commitment to affirmative action. Under his leadership, the Women’s Studies program and the Women’s Center were estab-
lished, and the university gave greater support to women's athletics. "I take a lot of personal pride in helping to get the women's programs off the ground, particularly women's basketball. That's one of my biggest prides," he said in the oral history. The Lady Monarchs would win national basketball championships in 1979, 1980 and 1985.

Under his leadership at ODU, support services were established for international, minority and handicapped students, and the university made great strides in recruiting and retaining minority faculty and students.

Rollins firmly established the university's significance to the region and the state by forging closer relationships with NASA, the U.S. Navy, Norfolk State University and Eastern Virginia Medical School. It was during his presidency that the university joined with other schools to form the Southeastern University Research Association to help bring the $300 million Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility to Newport News.

In the classroom at ODU, Rollins taught a variety of courses in American history, including large lecture sections of the General Education American History class.

Rollins credited Dana Burnett, the ODU professor of education who was dean of student affairs and vice president for student affairs during the Rollins presidency, with many of the student services initiatives of those years. But Burnett said in a tribute that it was Rollins who "was a student's president."

Burnett added, "His leadership for the development of women's athletics, and support for gender and racial equality have been widely recognized. What has not been publicly acknowledged as much is his insistence that our campus provide opportunities for out-of-class learning and support for students. When he arrived on campus, we had no counseling center, no health center and only a modest student activities program. Within just a few years, and with his caring leadership, the foundation had been laid for the essential student support services and student life programs that exist on our campus today."

James Koch, ODU President Emeritus and now the Board of Visitors Professor of Economics, said Rollins "set a good example for former presidents — helpful, but never interfering, always wise with his counsel. Dr. Rollins had much to do with modernizing Old Dominion and moving it from characteristics that harkened back to our years as a two-year institution to those required for an urban research institution."

Charles O. Burgess, who served as provost and vice president for academic affairs during the Rollins years, and later as dean of the College of Arts and Letters, said, "Al Rollins was not only a classy person in himself, but also was the president who consolidated and strengthened the university based on the teaching tradition of the Lewis Webb years and the firm establishment of university status under Jim Bugg. Al brought a national view, a commitment to the arts and to affirmative action, and important new program initiatives, all with a rich sense of humor. He will be remembered as one of our great presidents."

Survivors include his wife, Helen Anrod Jones of Norfolk, who is a professional photographer. His wife when he came to ODU, Faith Prior Rollins, a consumer economist, died of cancer in 1979. Rollins’ first wife, Ernestine McMullin, died in 1972, also of cancer. Other survivors include three children from his first marriage, John D. Rollins of Cheshire, Conn. (and wife, Debbie); James S. Rollins of Portsmouth, N.H. (and wife, Cynthia Van Zandt); and Nancy J. Rowell of Highgate, Vt. (and husband, Willard), as well as five grandchildren and a sister, Marjorie Myer of Florence, Ky.

Rollins was active in organizations outside of ODU. He served as chairman of the Tidewater Consortium for Continuing Education and of the Eastern Virginia Health Education Consortium. He was a board member of the Norfolk Symphony, Virginia Opera Association, Virginia Orchestra Group, Urban League of Tidewater and the Greater Norfolk Corporation.
everywhere you looked on the Old Dominion University campus this spring you saw “green.” ODU’s campus and its policies are favorably reviewed in the downloadable new book, “The Princeton Review’s Guide to 322 Green Colleges.” That ranking for ODU came on the heels of two notices in the same vein: word that ODU has been accepted into the national Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree Campus USA program, and a new award for the Bike ODU bicycle-sharing program.

The Princeton Review (TPR), an education services company known for both its test prep programs and its college rankings and guidebooks, praised ODU for sustainability efforts by the campus community.

Schools, including ODU, were chosen for the guide based on a survey TPR conducted in 2012 of administrators at four-year institutions throughout the United States. The company analyzed data from the survey about the schools’ course offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation to measure their commitment to the environment and to sustainability.

ODU was recognized for implementing a series of innovative sustainability measures, becoming a leader both in higher education and in Hampton Roads. “Leveraging its unique location bordering the Elizabeth River in coastal Virginia, ODU has made great strides both internally and externally to create a sustainable future,” the publication notes. “Within the campus, the university has recycled more than 1.5 million pounds of materials last year, developed a master plan for storm water pollution prevention, and arranged eco-friendly alternative transportation. It has also taken many steps towards sustainable dining.”

The Princeton Review added that ODU’s commitment to green construction – with all new building and major renovations required to satisfy LEED Silver standards at a minimum – and sustainable research in fields like engineering, oceanography and environmental health, demonstrates the school’s dedication.

The publication further noted, “Always conscious of its beautiful surroundings, ODU collaborated with the Army Corps of Engineers to complete construction of a three-quarter-acre wetland restoration and breakwater installation adjoining the Elizabeth River.”

ODU’s Tree Campus USA designation recognized the efforts of the university’s grounds department. “Your entire campus community should be proud of this sustained commitment to environmental stewardship,” Widhelm wrote.

A college or university earns a Tree Campus USA designation by managing its resource of campus trees, developing connectivity beyond campus borders to foster healthy, urban forests, and by striving to engage its student population to provide learning opportunities centered on campus and community forestry efforts.

Also in spring 2013, the League of American Bicyclists announced the latest round of Bicycle Friendly Universities (BFU). ODU was named a Bronze BFU. “College campuses are natural places to integrate bicycling – and Old Dominion University recognizes the small steps needed to make bicycling a safe and easy option for students and staff,” said league president Andy Clarke. “Young people are driving less and riding more, and ODU has embraced that trend.”

ODU was recognized for its new bike share program, Bike ODU, which began in fall 2012 with a fleet of 48 bicycles. Any students, staff or faculty who are members of the Student Recreation Center can check out the bikes at no charge. The bikes come with a U-lock, helmet and basket, and may be borrowed for up to one week.
Legend Award for ‘Cee Cee’ Tucker’s Extraordinary Contributions to ODU and the Community

Cecelia Tucker, Old Dominion’s assistant to the president for community relations, received the Hampton Roads Legend Award Feb. 1 at the 11th annual program Legacies: A Celebration of Black History Month. Many in the ODU community are familiar with “Cee Cee’s” community service on behalf of ODU over the past two decades, but the award is for contributions she has made to the region dating to 1960, when she arrived to teach biology at Booker T. Washington High School in Norfolk.

Sponsored by Tidewater Community College, in partnership with the Urban League of Hampton Roads Young Professionals, the Legacies event was held at the TCC Roper Performing Arts Center in Norfolk.

“This is award is well-deserved recognition of the great work that Cecelia Tucker does in the community,” said ODU President John Broderick. “Her efforts over the years in making this region a better place - on behalf of ODU and many other organizations - are legendary, indeed. The Hampton Roads community is fortunate to have someone as committed and caring as Cecelia Tucker among its leaders.”

In her position at ODU, which she took in 1991, Tucker has devoted herself to improving relationships among the races. She undertakes a wide variety of community relations activities for the university, especially for and with the minority and African-American communities of Hampton Roads. These activities include liaison with community groups; alumni relations; government relations; student, faculty and staff recruitment; working to improve the campus climate and civility; public speaking; and representing the president and specific projects, as assigned.

Joining Tucker at the awards program were five Silver Star honorees: Carlos Campo, president of Regent University, Silver Star Spirit of Diversity; Dr. Fred Quarles of Quarles Dermatology, Silver Star for Healthy Families and Communities; Delceno Miles, president and CEO of The Miles Agency, Silver Star for Jobs and Entrepreneurship; Tony Atwater, president of Norfolk State University, Silver Star for Education; and Amelia Ross-Hammond of the Virginia Beach City Council, Silver Star Spirit of Service.

The daughter of two educators, Tucker was the valedictorian of her high school class in Mecklenburg County, Va., and graduated cum laude from Virginia Union University in Richmond with a bachelor’s degree in biology education. She received a master’s in biology from the University of Michigan.

After teaching at Washington High School for six years, Tucker spent time as a full-time wife and mother, and also as a community volunteer. Tucker worked with the Norfolk Committee for the Improvement of Education, Day Care and Child Development Center, Phillis Wheatley YWCA, Freemason Street YWCA and the Urban League of Hampton Roads. In 1983, she was asked to serve as the acting director of the Urban League, which initiated her return to the working world outside of home. Following her years at the Urban League, she held several other positions as Women in Transition director for the YWCA in Hampton Roads, marketing director for Banks Corneille and Associates, an architectural firm, and interim director of the William A. Hunton YMCA.

She has served on boards of numerous community organizations, including the Virginia Stage Company, Young Audiences of Virginia, the Virginia Beach Community Services Board, the African-American Jewish Coalition, Empowerment 2010 and the Dwelling Place.

In addition to her extensive community involvement, Tucker has held three state appointments by governors John Dalton and Charles Robb. She was a member of the Bi-racial Monitoring Committee for both governors and served on the Virginia Enterprise Zone Task Force for Robb.

Widely known as a community leader, Tucker has been honored with such awards as the Martin Luther King Award and the Outstanding Service Award from the Norfolk Links, the McDonald’s Hampton Roads Black Achievement Award, Tidewater Community College’s Martin Luther King Award and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Trailblazer’s Award.

Currently, Tucker serves as a board member of the Hunton YMCA, Rotary Club of Hampton Roads, Norfolk Education Foundation, American Red Cross of Southeastern Virginia, Minority Advisory Council of United Way and the L.D. Britt Scholarship Committee. Further, she is a member of the Board of Trustees Ministry at the historic Bank Street Memorial Baptist Church in Norfolk.
Confucius Institute
ODU Partners with Minzu University to Promote U.S.-China Understanding

The Confucius Institute at Old Dominion debuted in April, marked by a colorful ceremony attended by 300 members of the university community and visitors from China. Together with the ODU China Center, the Confucius Institute will form the umbrella organization under which all China-related initiatives in the university’s colleges can be indexed and coordinated. “As one of Virginia’s most diverse campuses, Old Dominion University is honored to partner with Minzu University (in Beijing) to open the Confucius Institute,” said ODU President John R. Broderick. “The prestigious program will undoubtedly complement Old Dominion’s long-standing focus on international education opportunities and preparing our students for success in today’s global society.”

During the event, Broderick’s remarks were translated into Chinese by Qiu Jin Hailstork, executive director of the Confucius Institute. Additional speakers included: Richard T. Cheng, an entrepreneurial businessman who is a former Eminent Professor and the founding chair of the Department of Computer Science at ODU; Fang Maotian, minister counselor of the Office of Educational Affairs at the U.S. Embassy of the People’s Republic of China; Norfolk City Councilwoman and ODU alumna Angelia Williams; and Ma Wenxi, vice president of Minzu University.

Performances included: ribbon dancers from the Tidewater Chinese School; the world premiere of “Fantasy on Chinese Melodies” by ODU music professor and Eminent Scholar Adolphus Hailstork, which was performed by ODU faculty and students from the Governor’s School for the Arts; and folk dances and martial arts demonstrations by representatives of Minzu University and Capital University of Physical Education and Sports in Beijing.

Wenxi presented Broderick several decorative scrolls with calligraphy painted by Minzu University faculty members. A red scroll proclaimed “Good Fortune,” “Health and Peace” and “Long Life.”

Broderick noted that the establishment of a Confucius Institute places ODU among an elite group of only 70 U.S. institutions that includes Stanford University and the College of William and Mary.

Confucius Institutes exist for three main purposes: to facilitate the instruction of the Chinese language at the host university and in public and private schools within each institute’s geographic area; to impart knowledge of Chinese history, literature, the arts and other aspects of Chinese culture; and to create, through the promotion of language and understanding of China as a country, partnerships that foster mutual understanding between the United States and China.
It all started on a chilly morning in January when a startled citizen near the Virginia Zoo in Norfolk called the police to report a “baby lion” on the loose. Similar reports followed and the constabulary was mobilized in response. Then the truth came to light. The cause of the excitement was no lion. It was the unofficial ODU mascot, Charles the Monarch, a dog of Labrador and poodle parentage with a king-of-the-jungle haircut.

The ruckus Charles caused soon became the subject of humorous news reports around the globe, all of which noted the mascot’s connection to ODU. Charles was invited to New York City to appear on NBC’s “Today” show, got his own Facebook page and collected 60,000 new friends, and was the subject of 350,000 hits on YouTube. The Huffington Post UK suggested that “King” Charles should cross the Atlantic to meet Queen Elizabeth, and perhaps play with her Corgis.

Back home in Norfolk, Charles the Monarch played to packed houses at ODU’s Ted Constant Center and other venues. He was initiated into Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He posed for hundreds of photos.

All of this amused the dog’s owner, Daniel Painter, a staunch ODU supporter who owns a garden supply company near campus. “Japan, South America, Germany – we’ve heard from everybody,” Painter told The Virginian-Pilot. “It’s pretty wild.”

Painter’s daughter, Natalie, is an ODU senior and occasional handler of Charles the Monarch.
Pre-Veterinary Student Tackles Virginia Zoo Monkey Study

Busy is better for Old Dominion University biology major LaCheryl Ball, and it seems that the same is true for the squirrel monkeys she has studied at the Virginia Zoo. Ball, who is from Henrico County outside Richmond, became the first member of her family to get a college degree when she graduated in May as an honors student headed for veterinary school.

“She is a very special student,” said Eric Walters, the assistant professor of biological sciences who assisted in her national award-winning research at the zoo in Norfolk. The university agrees. The Kaufman Prize, ODU’s highest honor given to a graduating senior, was presented to Ball on May 9.

Ball decided as a sixth grader that she wanted to work with animals as a career, and she steadfastly held to that course despite family disruption, including the death of a parent, while she was in high school.

Although she had scholarships at ODU, Ball had to hold down paying jobs to stay in school. She kept her career aspirations on track, however; finding jobs that involved working with animals.

She served a summer-long internship at the New England Wildlife Center in Boston, having to walk four miles back and forth to work because she lacked personal transportation. Also while at ODU, she volunteered at local humane societies, founded the Pre-Veterinary Medical Association and mentored middle school girls who are interested in science. “The list could go on,” Walters said.

Later this year, Ball will begin studies at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, which incorporates facilities at Virginia Tech, the University of Maryland and the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Va.

So that explains how busy she likes to be. What about the squirrel monkeys?

Her research with squirrel monkeys involved puzzle-solving to get food, and the way this challenge seems to stimulate the monkeys.

The study is a big reason she won a national award this spring from the Charles H. Turner Program of the Animal Behavior Society and the Center for Integrative Study of Animal Behavior. The award, named for one of the first African Americans to do animal behavior research, goes to 10 outstanding undergraduate researchers each year. It will pay all expenses for Ball to attend the Animal Behavior Society conference in July in Boulder, Colo., where she will present her research and be advised by some of the country’s top people in her chosen field.

Ball’s research project started soon after Walters came to ODU two years ago. From Walters’ contact with zoo officials, he learned that they were eager to participate in a so-called “enrichment” research project. This met Ball’s needs, as well.

Enrichment is not new to zookeeping. Most modern zoos spend a lot of time and money trying to persuade their animals to be more active, and to use the full space available to them. This can include trying to coax the animals into the foraging behavior that they would exhibit in the wild.

Ball and Walters consulted with various people at the zoo, including veterinarian Amanda Guthrie, and came up with a project that would tempt the squirrel monkeys to manipulate a contraption in order to get at the fruits, vegetables and small-primate chow that
captive monkeys usually have no difficulty getting from bowls placed around their quarters. The feeder is a Plexiglas box with screws and levers that is made by a manufacturer specifically for this kind of research.

There was a strict, every-other-day schedule when the box was hung for a few hours high, as in a tree, in the squirrel monkey enclosure. Some of the six monkeys in the exhibit were up to the challenge more than others. Especially fond of it were the two juvenile males—“like teenagers taking to technology,” explained Ball.

“The experiment is divided into three phases,” Ball added. “The first defines their behavior before enrichment,” which means that she carefully observed the behavior of the monkeys before the food puzzle was installed. “The second explores their behavior during enrichment on both treatment days, when the enrichment feeders are present, and on control days when the feeders are not in the exhibit. The third phase is unique in that it explores the protracted effects of the enrichment on this species in captivity.

“The goal of my experiment is to give the monkeys an incentive or provide a means for them to behave more similarly to monkeys of their species in the wild. (These monkeys are native to Central and South America.) I am trying to get them to exhibit foraging behaviors approximately 61 percent of the time, such as is seen in the wild,” Ball said. “I am also trying to increase the active behaviors—climbing, crawling, interacting, etc.—exhibited by the population. So far, I have seen a 14 percent increase in foraging behaviors in the presence of enrichment and also a 5.2 percent increase in active behaviors.”

Roger Sweeney, assistant director of the zoo, said the “research part” of Ball’s project is what is so valuable to the facility. “We are familiar with doing things to try to make life more interesting for the animals, challenging them mentally, getting them to move about. But does the behavior last? What we know tends to be anecdotal.”

Ball’s research will chart the aftermath of the enrichment exercise, and help determine what sort of enrichment can have a long-term, positive impact on the animals’ behavior.

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Magic of Rahat Takes a Viral Turn

A car rolls to the pickup window at a busy fast-food restaurant. A camera in the front seat captures the restaurant employee coming to the window with the food order. A restaurant worker, then another, looks in the car and sees no driver. Their reactions are quizzical and startled, and unfailingly hilarious. They’ve also been seen more than 30 million times around the world, thanks to the video sharing site YouTube.

Magician Gazi “Rahat” Hossain, a criminal justice major at Old Dominion, was actually in the car when the workers’ reactions were captured, dressed as the fabric of his drivers’ seat. His video prank, “Drive Thru Invisible Driver Prank,” has made Rahat a viral Internet star.

His YouTube page, the Magic of Rahat, features many other videos, frequently with the drive-through motif—his wallet catching fire as he tries to pay, or his drink cup floating in the air. It’s the kind of harmless, playful fun that Rahat strives for in his entertainment.

“These (drive-through) workers’ reactions are the best part of these videos. But at the end of the day, it’s just fun,” he said.

Rahat, 24, is from Newport News. After the invisible driver prank went viral, he made the rounds on national television shows, from “Good Morning America,” to “Ellen,” to CNN, to “Fox and Friends.” His magic and video career has taken off to the point where he took a semester off from his ODU studies to concentrate on his gags full time.

“I’ve been doing this magic for a long time. I started by reading books and watching DVDs, and it’s turned into this,” he said. “But when the hidden driver video took off, that’s when my life flipped upside down. I love everything I’m doing right now. I love entertaining people, and making people happy.”
Like many students at Old Dominion University and other higher education institutions, Rachel Chasin took advantage of a study abroad program to travel to Europe over this year’s spring break vacation. But for Chasin, the trip went far beyond academics. She learned the fate of several family members who were killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

The shocking revelation came during history professor Annette Finley-Croswhite’s March study abroad course when she took 12 students on a 10-day trip to France and Poland that included a visit to the notorious Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. The program was funded by two grants from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies.

Said Finley-Croswhite, “I realized we had no dedicated Holocaust courses in our history curriculum. I believed as historians we needed to offer students a strong focus on this irrevocable breakdown in civilization.”

—ANNETTE FINLEY-CROSWHITE

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Said Finley-Croswhite, “I realized we had no dedicated Holocaust courses in our history curriculum. I believed as historians we
needed to offer students a strong focus on this irrevocable breakdown in civilization.” She applied to the Silberman Foundation at the Holocaust Memorial Museum for funding to develop Holocaust courses and received grants in both 2011 and 2012 to develop four courses, the study abroad being one of them.

Chasin, who graduated in May with a degree in communication, took the class to find out what happened to her great-great-grandparents and other family members who lived in the town of Rzepienik, Poland, near Krakow, during World War II. Chasin’s family had assumed these relatives died at Auschwitz, but no one knew for sure.

While visiting Auschwitz, Chasin had been unsuccessful in getting answers from a camp database. But she caught a break while in Krakow, where Finley-Croswhite arranged a lecture by Edyta Gawron, director of the Jewish Studies program at Jagiellonian University. Over the course of dinner, Gawron was able to steer Chasin to a couple of websites that led to an article explaining what happened in Rzepienik.

Chasin’s family members never made it to Auschwitz; they were lined up and shot in groups of 10 near their home in 1942. “Even though part of my family lost to the Nazis, I won. I beat them,” Chasin told a small crowd that gathered recently at ODU’s Kornblau Alumni Center to hear the students share reflections from their spring break experience. “Hitler wanted to exterminate the Jewish people and have everyone forget about them – that they didn’t matter. Because I found out how [my family members] died, I won. They’ll never be able to take that away from me. And like the many others who were murdered, and those that survived, they will never ever be forgotten.”

-Jon Cawley

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*’If There Is a Will, There Is a Way’ Graduate Studies Fit into Busy Lives*

Navy husband and wife Alfredo and Molly Pargas found their own individual ways to pursue teaching degrees at Old Dominion University, but their ambitions are the same. Molly graduated in December 2012 and Alfredo is scheduled to graduate this fall, both from the master’s program in elementary education, and both are interested in teaching kindergarten or first grade.

Prior to joining the Navy, Alfredo was a kindergarten teacher’s aide. He says he loved working with the kids and feeling that he was making a real difference in their development. Taking a day off from her work as a paralegal, Molly visited Alfredo’s classroom. “I was enchanted with the positive atmosphere, and loved seeing the progress the kids were making, even in one day.” That day set the couple firmly on the road to teaching careers.

Molly describes herself as a definite multitasker. “Taking care of two very active little boys during the day, meeting family commitments, and doing homework several hours a night was how I have spent the last couple of years. However, both Freddy and I firmly believe that if there is a will, there is a way. It is all about managing your time and believing that you can do it. It was tough, especially when Freddy was deployed during my student teaching, but the ultimate reward was stepping into that classroom fully prepared to build relationships and being ready to use the tools I learned from Old Dominion’s distance learning program. I also cannot say enough about the level of assistance I received from Florence Hayes-Addison, our ODU/Little Creek site director. She provided sound advice and helped us every step of the way.”

The couple’s experiences show the variety of ways distance learning can serve military students and families. Molly has taken classes on the main ODU campus, online and videostreamed to her ODU Distance Learning site at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story. Alfredo will complete his master’s entirely online, progressing through coursework during deployments to Africa and South America with his Navy Special Warfare Group.

“It was difficult taking classes overseas in different countries, but distance learning and the Internet made it easier,” he says. “I was able to videostream courses or access Blackboard to complete my classes via the Internet. I’m very proud of Molly, who started the master’s program the same time I did and who has earned her degree. Molly helped motivate me to work toward completing a master’s degree while still in the Navy. I did not think it was possible with my schedule because I am gone 75 percent of the time. But by the time I get out of the Navy, I will only have to student-teach. I am very proud of the amount of classes that I have completed at ODU.”

The Pargas family resides in Norfolk and also includes sons, Alexander and Anthony.

-Tammy Dodson and William Gideon

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‘Brilliant’ Blake Bailey Biography Is ‘Novelistic’

“Farther & Wilder: The Lost Weekends and Literary Dreams of Charles Jackson,” a biography written by Old Dominion University’s Blake Bailey, was ushered into the marketplace this spring with a bass drum-roll. And that was for a book about the life of a little-known novelist.

“A Great American Biography,” declared The Wall Street Journal in a marquee headline atop a lengthy review; “brilliant and gripping” is how the reviewer described the 494-page book, which portrays Jackson, the author of the 1944 novel “The Lost Weekend,” as a man who loved fame but got only a taste of it. Reviews in other major publications were most favorable, as well, and a few weeks before the biography was released, the magazine Vanity Fair published an excerpt in which Bailey describes Jackson’s brush with the Golden Age of Hollywood.

Bailey, the Mina Hohenberg Darden Professor of Creative Writing at ODU, is no newcomer to literary biography. His “A Tragic Honesty: The Life and Work of Richard Yates” (2003) was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. His “Cheever: A Life” (2009) about John Cheever won the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Francis Parkman Prize, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer and James Tait Black Memorial prizes. In 2010 he received an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Jackson deserves a place in the 20th century American literary canon because of one book, “The Lost Weekend.” His fleeting time in the limelight also was owing to Billy Wilder’s 1945 movie of the same name, which was adapted from the novel.

In the book, Jackson’s alter-ego Don Birnam spends five disastrous days in an alcoholic fog; the storyline was ahead of its time in exploring addictions. In real life, Jackson bounced between doting family man and gay reveler, and between sober, hardworking writer and delusional, medicated dreamer.

“By dramatizing that dream, in all its pathos and comedy, Mr. Bailey has made an author come alive in a way that is truly novelist,” wrote The Wall Street Journal’s reviewer Adam Kirsch.

Particularly compelling is Bailey’s description of Jackson’s short time in Hollywood, where he was a screenwriter at the height of the popularity of “The Lost Weekend.” His awestruck encounters with Clark Gable, Judy Garland, and even a visiting Thomas Mann – the German novelist, who Jackson idolized – are especially poignant sandwiched as they are between his threadbare, frustrated-writer years before and after publication of “The Lost Weekend.”
“Fatal Knowledge.”
By Dan Hennelly

Using the adage “write what you know,” Old Dominion University administrator Dan Hennelly set his first novel on a college campus.

With fictional Chesapeake Bay University as his backdrop, Hennelly’s murder mystery, titled “Fatal Knowledge,” follows history professor and amateur detective Andrew Stanard as he sets about solving the murder of graduate student Jenny Biggio. Stanard stumbles before he finds his footing and solves Jenny’s murder.

Hennelly, academic services analyst with the Office of Academic Affairs, received a $1,600 grant last summer from the university’s Staff Dream Fund. The grant allowed him to use a print-on-demand publisher, iUniverse, to self-publish “Fatal Knowledge.”

“Drawing on more than 20 years of working in higher education, I began developing the setting of fictional Chesapeake Bay University and the cast of characters that populate ‘Fatal Knowledge,’” Hennelly said. “My wife was a college librarian, recently retired from Tidewater Community College, so it was only natural that a pivotal chapter is set in the campus library.”

Hennelly began writing the novel in 2007. He describes it as a “cozy mystery,” akin to Agatha Christie’s Miss Marple series.

“Swimming in the Shallow End.”
By Philip Raisor

This poetry collection by Raisor, an emeritus professor of English at Old Dominion University, is a verse memoir that examines the archetypal American conflict between the desire to stay and the passion to go. Like his prose memoir, “Outside Shooter” (2003), Raisor’s poetic tales are set in Muncie, Ind., where he was born, and are revealed by a narrator who returns like the prodigal son. One reviewer said the poetry collection, which was released this spring, brings to mind James Joyce’s “Dubliners” collection of short stories because both works explore leaving home to gain a wider perspective. Raisor, whose lectures on Joyce are remembered fondly by many ODU literature graduates, no doubt approved of the comparison. His compact collection, “Hoosiers: the Poems,” won the 2013 Palooka Press Chapbook Prize.

“Culture Re-Boot: Reinvigorating School Culture to Improve Student Outcomes.” By Leslie Kaplan and William Owings.

In their new book, “Culture Re-Boot,” Leslie Kaplan and William Owings guide principals and teachers in improving leadership, teaching, learning, competence and trust throughout their schools. This is the 13th book or monograph written together by Owings, professor of educational leadership at Old Dominion, and Kaplan, a retired school administrator and currently a full-time education writer. Drawing on the authors’ combined 60-plus years in education, the book reviews the research, provides assessment models, and presents activities and timelines for “rebooting” a school’s culture. Published by Sage, “Culture Re-Boot” reframes school culture to include organizational learning, relational trust, accountability, program improvement and teacher effectiveness while showing how to be a transformational leader that reinvigorates school culture, establishes a student-centered learning culture focused on student outcomes, and engages teachers in culture-focused leadership teams that support teacher and student learning.

Old Dominion University creative writing professor Sheri Reynolds has what she calls her “first funny book” in “The Homespun Wisdom of Myrtle T. Cribb,” her sixth novel.

The latest published work by Reynolds — a No. 1 New York Times bestselling author and ODU’s Ruth and Perry Morgan Endowed Chair of Southern Literature — tells the story of Myrtle T. Cribb, a middle-aged special-needs teacher from the Eastern Shore who is languishing in a dysfunctional marriage. The book’s action begins to play out when Cribb embarks on a spontaneous road trip, only to discover the town drunk — aptly named Hellcat — stowed away in the bed of her pickup truck. During the adventure that ensues, Cribb faces the realities of her home situation and her own racial prejudices.

“It’s told from the point of view of a woman who views herself as a spiritual teacher distributing theology and practical advice to average people,” Reynolds said. “It’s my first funny book. I think I’m at a lighter time in my life in some ways.”

However, the journal-style “devotional” novel, which Reynolds said was re-written at least three times, didn’t start that way. “It was much more serious at first. When I shifted into her voice, it became very funny,” Reynolds said. “She’s irreverent, neurotic and wise, but wacky.”

While crafting the story of Myrtle Cribb, Reynolds said she didn’t think a lot about themes or analyzing social implications.

“If I did, I probably would quit (writing) because I would feel too exposed,” she said. “I try to stay closer to an intuitive state. The fastest thing to kill a project is if I think about what it means to the culture.”

As far as plot development goes, Reynolds said she always starts with a character and works outward. The story of Myrtle T. Cribb and Hellcat was drawn from a personal experience Reynolds had when she once gave a man a ride home from the grocery store.

“I thought about what my dad would say or do. I started thinking about my mother and how it would be to be married to someone who would say ‘you can’t do that.’ It came to me that way,” she said. “Myrtle is an unlikely feminist. She had a traditional-looking marriage and then she wakes up at mid-life to relationships between the sexes and her body.”

“The Homespun Wisdom of Myrtle T. Cribb” was released by Turner Publishing. When “Myrtle” was published late last year, Crown Publishing Group, her previous publisher, reissued three of her earlier novels, “A Gracious Plenty,” “The Firefly Cloak” and “The Sweet In-Between,” at the same time.
EMBEDDEDNESS THEORY FOR YEARS HAS BEEN USED BY WORKPLACE RESEARCHERS TO HELP EXPLAIN WHY A PERSON WOULD STICK WITH A PARTICULAR EMPLOYER. IT MAY ALSO HOLD KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING WHY WOMEN FREQUENTLY DROP OUT OF MATH-INTENSIVE MAJORS IN COLLEGE AND ARE UNDERREPRESENTED IN STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH) CAREERS.

That’s the hypothesis of Old Dominion University industrial/organizational psychologist Debra Major, who for more than a decade has been conducting research into career barriers, especially for women and minorities. In February, the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Major and her colleagues a three-year grant worth $525,000 for the project “Patching the STEM Pipeline Between College and Work: Investigating Gender Issues in Embeddedness.”

The award is more evidence of ODU’s emphasis on preparing students for STEM and STEM-H (health) studies and careers.

Also this spring, the NSF invested in a project designed by a group of ODU researchers to promote the study of ocean wave energy, while also piquing the interest of young students in STEM fields. Jin Wang, associate professor of mathematics and statistics, leads the research team that will carry out the $200,000 project — “A Multidisciplinary Platform for Wave Energy Education” — over the next two years. A collateral goal of the work is to encourage the next-generation workforce to tackle ever-increasing energy needs.

Major, a professor of psychology, has had continuous NSF funding since 2002 for her research into why women and minorities are underrepresented in STEM majors and careers. This award brings her NSF funding total to about $2.5 million. Her project team for the embeddedness grant includes two other psychology faculty members from ODU, associate professor Matt Henson, and assistant professor Konstantin Cigularov, as well as Valerie Morganson, an alumna of the industrial/organizational psychology doctoral program.

Her latest research is novel, Major said, because “It will extend the application of the Embeddedness Theory to the educational experience prior to workforce entry and demonstrate linkages between college and workforce embeddedness experiences.”

Job embeddedness theory considers job satisfaction, bonds with co-workers, confidence in job skills and opportunity for advancement in an employee’s decision whether to stay with a firm or quit. The theory extends, as well, to family and social reasons that may anchor men and women differently to a job.

Major’s project will survey students and early careerists in terms of human capital — the acquisition of knowledge and skills — as well as social capital — the development of interpersonal relationships and networking.

“The project contributes to the literature on gender differences in STEM. … In particular, Embeddedness Theory offers explanations beyond abilities and attitudes, which seem inadequate in explaining women’s underrepresentation in STEM fields,” Major added.

Working with Wang on the wave energy project will be ODU faculty members Gene Hou, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering; Ravindra Joshi, Eminent Scholar and University Professor in electrical engineering; and Todd Fantz, assistant professor of STEM education and professional studies. Other senior personnel on the grant are Miltiadis Kotinis, ODU assistant professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering; Vishnu Lakdawala, ODU associate professor of electrical engineering; and Clair Berube, who received her Ph.D from ODU’s Darden College of Education and is an assistant professor of science education at Hampton University.

Harnessing wave energy has been a goal of scientists and engineers for centuries, but interest in it has increased...
Old Dominion University photovoltaic (PV) energy researcher Sylvain Marsillac, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering in the Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology, has received a $500,000 grant to help test solar energy concepts on the roof of ODU’s engineering building.

The three-year funding, announced early this year by Gov. Bob McDonnell, is the largest award of $1.4 million earmarked for public universities by Dominion Virginia Power’s renewable energy research and development Partnership Program.

Marsillac is one of the country’s leading researchers into photovoltaic (solar) energy. He has received more than $3 million in funding from sources such as the U.S. Department of Energy and National Science Foundation since arriving in Norfolk a little more than two years ago.

With the latest grant, Marsillac will collaborate with Dominion to study the economics, operation, maintenance and performance of large-scale solar installations.

The newly installed structure on the roof of Kaufman Hall will allow Marsillac and Shirshak Dhali, professor and chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, to evaluate different panels and mounting structures, and develop a way to detect failure of solar cells in real time. The solar panels became operational this spring.

“Besides the research opportunity, this study should also benefit local solar energy installers, and demonstrate the viability of Virginia as a great PV market to investors and industry leaders,” Marsillac said.

In announcing the grants, McDonnell lauded the universities selected, and applauded Dominion Virginia Power for actively working toward their statutory renewable energy goals. Legislation proposed in the last session of the Virginia General Assembly provides utilities financial credit for these investments.

Pulling Solar Energy into Sharper Focus

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With the latest grant, Marsillac will collaborate with Dominion to study the economics, operation, maintenance and performance of large-scale solar installations.

The newly installed structure on the roof of Kaufman Hall will allow Marsillac and Shirshak Dhali, professor and chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, to evaluate different panels and mounting structures, and develop a way to detect failure of solar cells in real time. The solar panels became operational this spring.

“Besides the research opportunity, this study should also benefit local solar energy installers, and demonstrate the viability of Virginia as a great PV market to investors and industry leaders,” Marsillac said.

In announcing the grants, McDonnell lauded the universities selected, and applauded Dominion Virginia Power for actively working toward their statutory renewable energy goals. Legislation proposed in the last session of the Virginia General Assembly provides utilities financial credit for these investments.

recently in response to calls for renewable and non-polluting energy sources. A variety of schemes have been proposed to use buoys, floats and pistons, turbines, rams and pumps to turn the huge potential of wave energy into electricity and other energies needed by humans.

Wang and his colleagues will use their research expertise in wave energy to develop “five innovative and self-sufficient course modules related to wave energy,” that will be available to several hundred students each year, the project abstract states.

The new course materials will be offered in the departments of math and statistics, mechanical and aerospace engineering, electrical and computer engineering and STEM education and professional studies. “Students will gain knowledge, mathematical and computational skills, and hands-on experience of wave energy through the proposed learning activities inside and outside the classroom,” Wang explained.

The outreach activities will include STEM collaborations involving historically black colleges and universities, community colleges, high schools, the military and industries. Special effort will be made to include underrepresented groups in the outreach activities, Wang said.

ODU, which already ranks third among Virginia institutions in its number of STEM-H graduates, found evidence earlier this year that its Supplemental Instruction (SI) program is working to strengthen math skills among students.

The SI initiative launched last fall by the 4-year-old Math Sciences Resource Center of the ODU College of Sciences has already produced “remarkable results,” says the college’s dean, Chris Platsoucas.

Students receiving SI had an average grade of 2.3, compared to grades of 2.1 for students who didn’t get SI. Even more impressive, according to Platsoucas: The SI students who were more successful in Math 102M had lower math SAT scores than the non-SI students. As a result, the voluntary program will become mandatory next fall for at-risk students.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) improves math performance

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Vision Lab Looking in New Directions

For more than a decade, Old Dominion University’s Machine Vision and Computational Intelligence Laboratory (Vision Lab) has conducted complex, groundbreaking research. Launched from a project to develop a computer-based facial image detection and recognition system, the Vision Lab became a key asset of federal agencies such as NASA, the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security. In 2012 alone, the lab received more than $500,000 in funding for its research.

Under the direction of Khan Iftekharuddin, a professor of electrical and computer engineering who came to ODU in 2011, the Vision Lab is also expanding its view. “Our national security research projects are still a very important part of what we do,” Iftekharuddin said. “But there are so many real-world applications of machine vision technology. It’s exciting to think of the possibilities.”

Several projects being led by Vision Lab offer promise to expand the technology into a host of new fields. Here are a few examples:

• **Real-time characterization of traffic emissions**
  Using real-time traffic video from existing Virginia Department of Transportation cameras, Vision Lab researchers are developing algorithms to characterize each vehicle as it passes. By extrapolating the traffic data with traffic flows and emissions data, researchers want to create an accurate snapshot of the exhaust/pollution emissions levels being produced at any given time in the region. The project, led by Jeff Flora, a graduate student, and Amr Youssef, postdoctoral fellow, could potentially help in intelligent, green transportation.

• **Three-dimensional modeling of the facial expressions of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)**
  Among the advanced equipment available at the Vision Lab is a camera system that can create 3-D images. Together with researchers at Eastern Virginia Medical School and Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters, the Vision Lab is testing whether 3-D facial expression analysis can help identify symptoms of autism spectrum disorder. The project is led by graduate students Manar Samad and Lasitha Vidyaratne.

• **Shoreline detection and mapping using DEMs data and aerial photos**
  As sea level rises and coastal populations continue to grow, there is an increased demand for understanding the accurate position of shorelines. This project, led by Youssef, aims to develop a novel and accurate technique for mapping and analyzing shoreline position using digital elevation models (DEMs) and aerial photos. “The longer-term goal is to link receding shoreline information in the Hampton Roads area to the sea level rise initiative for wetland and flood monitoring,” Iftekharuddin said.

• **Psychology-driven human movement analysis for crowd sourcing**
  In a relatively new project, the Vision Lab is working to interpret observed behavior from full motion video (FMV), and use vision-based techniques to recognize the actions and activities of people in the videos. It also involves prediction of activities from the behavioral cues gleaned from observing an individual person or crowd in FMV. The project, led by Kwasi Afrifa, includes using a computational model to link behavior cues to particular actions or activities and emotions for training of the vision-based learning machine. “Development of such a psychology-driven model can be crucial in understanding large-crowd behavior in natural and man-made disasters,” Iftekharuddin said.
New research findings have added to the momentum of the Old Dominion University Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Initiative (CCSLRI) that President John Broderick launched in 2010.

Recent studies have identified a “hot spot” of accelerated sea level rise from Cape Hatteras, N.C., to Boston, and researchers have speculated that a diminished flow of the Gulf Stream might be partly to blame. Now, data analysis by a team of oceanographers led by ODU faculty member Tal Ezer has given that hypothesis new scientific footing.

The findings were published earlier this year by the Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans.

Ezer is professor of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences at ODU’s Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography (CCPO). His co-authors on the latest publication are Larry Atkinson, Slover Professor of Oceanography and director of ODU’s CCSLRI; William Bryce Corlett, an ODU alum and now a graduate student at the University of Southampton in England; and José Blanco, a Chilean scientist who has worked extensively with ODU’s CCPO.

“Several papers show the acceleration of sea level rise in the mid-Atlantic. This new paper confirms the hypothesis for why it’s happening,” Ezer said. “In addition to the well-known causes for coastal sea level rise – global sea level rise and land subsidence in some places – this study points to a new source of sea level rise that is not yet fully understood: changes in ocean currents.”

Findings of the researchers can explain why in some regions, such as Hampton Roads, the sea level has been rising two to three times faster than the average global sea level, and why the rate of the rise has increased in recent years.

The Gulf Stream flows like a huge river – a half-mile deep and more than 50 miles across – at about 100-200 miles off the east coast of the United States. It transports about 500 times the volume of water of the Amazon River. After flowing along the Florida eastern coast, the Gulf Stream separates from the coast at Cape Hatteras, N.C., and then turns northeastward, bringing large amounts of warm tropical waters into the cold North Atlantic Ocean. This causes it to play an important role in Earth’s climate and weather.

When the Gulf Stream turns eastward it pulls water away from the mid-Atlantic shore, and the water level on the inshore side of the Gulf Stream, along the mid-Atlantic coast, is kept about 3-5 feet lower than the water on the other side of the Gulf Stream. Basic dynamic oceanography implies that this water elevation difference across the Gulf Stream is proportional to the speed of the stream, so the theory is that changes in the flow of the Gulf Stream would affect the coastal sea level in the mid-Atlantic more than any other coast.

“But does it really happen? And can observations confirm this theory? Those were the challenging issues tackled in this latest research,” Ezer said.

Based on computer climate models, scientists have hypothesized for some time that a warming climate in the Arctic will slow the Atlantic Ocean circulation and reduce the Gulf Stream transport. The new study analyzed data that suggest the Gulf Stream may have started slowing already, and the accelerated sea level rise that has been measured in the mid-Atlantic area over the last few years is related to the changing Gulf Stream.

The research involves a new data analysis method developed by Ezer and Corlett that was published in Geophysical Research Letters in October 2012. The method can separate between long-term variations that may relate to climatic changes and faster changes such as seasonal cycles.

“These results indicate that sea levels in all those (mid-Atlantic measurement) stations are driven by the same force, and the candidate for that force was clearly the Gulf Stream,” Ezer said. “Even more surprising was the very high statistical correlation found between changes in the Gulf Stream strength and the coastal sea level; the result was exactly as predicted by the theory, but real data barely show such clear results.”
Dental Hygienists Without Borders

HIRSCHFELD SCHOOL SHARES EXPERTISE IN NICARAGUA
Close to 200,000 dental hygienists are employed in the United States, and the number is expected to top 250,000 by the end of the decade, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. But in many parts of the world, it’s not a booming profession, or a profession at all, and that’s the impetus for a foray into Nicaragua by Old Dominion University’s G.W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene.
teamed with Physicians for Peace (PFP) staff and volunteers, have made four trips to Nicaragua and developed a close working relationship with the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua (UNAN) in Leon. Dr. Humberto Altamirano, dean of odontology at UNAN, paid a fact-finding visit to ODU in 2011 as a guest of the College of Health Sciences and the School of Dental Hygiene.

From the exchanges and relationship have come the foundation for Central America’s first formal program in dental hygiene.

Professionals in this field provide treatments such as oral prophylaxis (dental cleaning), fluoride therapy, dental sealants and radiographs, as well as conduct oral cancer screenings, examine patients for oral diseases such as gingivitis and provide other preventive dental care. They also educate patients on ways to improve and maintain good oral health. All of this helps to relieve the load on dentists, allowing them to focus on performing restorative procedures. In a country such as Nicaragua, dental hygienists could greatly expand basic dental care and improve dental and systemic health.

Gayle McCombs, who at the School of Dental Hygiene serves as a University Professor, graduate program director and director of the Dental Hygiene Research Center, has led ODU’s Nicaragua connection. “In 2010, I was invited to be part of a PFP mission to provide oral care to the community, but also to conduct a feasibility investigation as to the possibility of creating a dental hygiene program in Leon,” McCombs says. “The profession of dental hygiene is not recognized in Central America, and this would be the first attempt to create a dental hygiene program in that country.”

UNAN, which is the main university in Nicaragua, graduated its first class of dental assistants in March 2013, paving the way for dental hygienists to be trained and certified, says Ron Sconyers, CEO and president of Physicians for Peace. “In most developed countries, dental assistants are an invaluable part of the dentist’s team of professionals, aiding the dentist in preparing patients for treatment, sterilizing instruments, passing instruments during the procedure, and more. These assistants are critical members of a dental team to ensure the best and most efficient dental care for their patients,” Sconyers adds.

ODU faculty and students in the missions to Nicaragua have included Lynn Tolle, professor of dental hygiene and clinic director; Tara Newcomb, assistant professor; Kendra Kleppe, who received her master’s in dental hygiene from ODU in 2012; and Carmelo Barrios-Padrino, a master’s student in dental hygiene. Also key to the project have been Miriam Lipscomb, a registered dental hygienist from Northern Virginia and mission volunteer; and Dr. Warren Sachs, Dr. Lee Weinstein and other volunteers with the Norfolk-based PFP.

Kleppe, Lipscomb, who was born in Leon, and Barrios-Padrino, who was born in Venezuela, have served as translators as well as dental hygiene professionals.

McCombs said Lipscomb’s connections to Leon were especially valuable. “Not only did her fluent Spanish and her cultural background enhance the mission, but her insight into the resident population proved invaluable. We were fortunate to have her!”

The mission to Leon last year was Tolle’s first trip outside the United States. “As a new international traveler, I was surprised by how much the trip moved me,” she says. “I was able to embrace the culture even though I was only there a short time.

Clockwise from top left, Gayle McCombs with Nicaraguan student; map of Central America; Dr. Humberto Altamirano, dean of odontology at the university in Leon, with Carmelo Barrios-Padrino of ODU and Dr. Abbey Horwitz of Virginia Beach, a Physician for Peace volunteer; Lynn Tolle of ODU shops for fruits and vegetables in a market in Leon.
“Professor McCombs has done a stellar job in laying the groundwork for the excellent relationship between ODU, UNAN and Physicians for Peace, and I believe this last trip served to strengthen the bond,” Tolle adds. “We had a productive, open exchange of ideas on how we can best incorporate the new three-year dental hygienic curriculum into the existing infrastructure of the dental school there. Everyone kept an open mind and discussed teaching issues within the curriculum that could lead to a successful first year.”

Kleppe, who has been on two missions, said the visitors also met with dentists in Nicaragua to discuss the benefits of incorporating dental hygienists into their practices. But she says the work with the UNAN faculty is where her true passion lies.

“Being that the dental hygiene role is non-existent in Central America, this program is critical in expanding oral health care and career opportunities. This program would improve access to preventive oral health services in Nicaragua, therefore, improving the oral health of Nicaraguans. This program would also provide more career opportunities in Nicaragua and Central America. As a dental hygienist, it was truly gratifying to be able to introduce dental hygiene internationally and its role in health care,” Kleppe says.

McCombs notes that the Norfolk delegation delivers instruments and equipment as well as academic and professional expertise. Two U.S. firms, Hu-Friedy Manufacturing Co. and Dentsply International, donated equipment and instruments that were delivered last year. “Through the generous donations, we were able to provide new dental hygiene examination and treatment instruments to the entire inaugural class,” she says, adding that the next mission in November should include the delivery of more products needed by the upstart dental hygiene program.

The overseas missions are an important component in the School of Dental Hygiene’s educational and career development goals, says Michele Darby, Eminent Scholar and University Professor, who spent seven months teaching at the Jordan University of Science and Technology on a Fulbright Scholarship in 2010. “Our responsibility is to create opportunities for those that we work with, e.g., collaborate with patients/clients so they may achieve optimal health, advance student and colleague careers so they may contribute to the profession and society; expand dental hygiene research/scholarship that raises the standards of education and ethical, evidence-based clinical decision making of dental hygienists, and participate in the formation of public policies that facilitate access to dental hygiene care and quality of life of all people.

“To serve the international society, sustainable partnerships with people from diverse backgrounds and cross-cultural settings, like our collaborations with people in Nicaragua, Germany and Jordan, are necessary to create such opportunities. Because health care is a worldwide human need, the School of Dental Hygiene promotes quality formal education globally that will increase access to sustained, cost-effective dental hygiene care to prevent and control dental disease, and reinforce trust so that new health goals can be identified and achieved together, regardless of the global community. Carrying out these responsibilities requires a steadfast commitment to these partnerships, and this has been one of the hallmarks of the School of Dental Hygiene.”

PFP, which is a nonprofit global humanitarian organization, has a motto that says it all, according to McCombs: “Send one. Train many. Heal the world.” (The organization collaborates with the ODU College of Health Sciences on other missions, as well. See “Global Connections: Health Sciences Students Meet Up with Madres Tutelares in the Caribbean” in the Fall 2012 issue of Monarch.)

“This fits well with the global mission of ODU and the School of Dental Hygiene,” McCombs says. “I am honored and humbled to be a part of this journey and ever grateful for the experience. I hope that the partnership among ODU, Physicians for Peace and UNAN will continue to grow and thrive in the coming years. My life has been enriched by this experience. I am humbled by the generosity of our host country and its people, who welcome us and open their homes and hearts to us.”
South Seas

Photography: Andy Bardon is a U.S.-based globetrotting photographer with National Geographic credentials. Josh Humbert is an American environmentalist who became a pearl oyster farmer in French Polynesia, and also is an accomplished photographer.
WHEN PEARL OYSTER FARMERS in the Tuamotu Archipelago of French Polynesia wanted an expert to evaluate the effect of their aquaculture on marine ecosystems, they found just the scientist they were looking for 6,000 miles away at Old Dominion University.

The call from Tuamotu last year to Kent Carpenter, professor of biological sciences at ODU, wasn’t exactly out of the blue. He is the director of the international Global Marine Species Assessment (GMSA), which is headquartered in a suite of offices and labs in the university’s Physical Sciences Building. Although there is no official log of miles traveled by ODU faculty members, Carpenter most certainly can lay claim to being the university’s chief globetrotter. Many of the research trips he has taken during the last two decades have been sky-mile bonanzas to places such as eastern Asia and the Pacific isles.
Carpenter’s worldwide reputation as a leading marine conservationist and his role as the founding director of the GMSA can be traced to his Peace Corps service during the 1970s in the Philippines. Not long afterward, he began research that identified an epicenter of marine biodiversity within the region stretching from the Philippines to Malaysia and Indonesia, known as the Coral Triangle. In 2005, Carpenter led the development of the GMSA, which is now the marine biodiversity unit of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The well-known Red List of Threatened Species is coordinated by the IUCN’s Species Survival Commission, and the GMSA is responsible for Red List assessments of marine plants and animals.

“Anywhere in the world, when news releases go out about marine species being on the Red List as endangered or near extinction, most likely GMSA is behind it,” Carpenter says. The GMSA organizes four to six workshops throughout the world each year to zero in on the future of various marine species. This year, the GMSA is holding six Red List workshops to evaluate 1,600 species.

Although there was no specific Red List connection to Carpenter’s mission last fall in French Polynesia, he nevertheless found himself in sparkling lagoons doing the same sort of species censuses that the GMSA is known for. His project, which was funded by the National Geographic Society and the Waitt Foundation, aims to help answer an important question: Does pearl oyster farming in pristine locations such as Tuamotu have the promising mix of upsides that proponents claim? Based on Carpenter’s preliminary analysis, he answers with an enthusiastic “yes.”

**“Pearl oyster farming is a great success story for mariculture… It seems not to hurt the local ecosystem and may actually enhance it.”**
"Pearl oyster farming is a great success story for mariculture," he says, using the term for aquaculture that is carried out in natural marine settings. "It seems not to hurt the local ecosystem and may actually enhance it, (with the oyster crops) working something like an artificial reef promoting biodiversity."

But the ODU scientist is quick to point out that the pearl oyster farming he encountered in Tuamotu follows best practices that have not always been in place elsewhere. Packing the oysters in too tightly, for example, can foul the water. This is a common complaint about the production of food fish and shellfish in aquaculture and mariculture.

The pearl culturing process was perfected about a century ago; it involves implanting a rounded piece of mollusk shell and a plug of donor mantle tissue inside a live oyster, then waiting one to two years for the oyster to coat the speck with layer after layer of a secretion called nacre (calcium carbonate and the fibrous protein conchiolin). In the last half of the 20th century cultured pearls became a big business in the Pacific and Pacific Rim regions. The highly prized Tahitian cultured pearls, many of which are dark and some a green/peacock color, come from French Polynesian farms such as those Carpenter visited. Worldwide, cultured pearls have become a billion-dollar industry.

Because areas of the South Pacific, as well as Asia, boast some of the world's greatest variety of marine life, the impact of aquaculture in general is of great interest to conservationists. "Aquaculture can lead to the deterioration of biodiversity and of natural ecosystems because of habitat destruction, competition for food and the introduction of invasive species," Carpenter explains.

"French Polynesia produces 95 percent of the world's black cultured pearls, which are especially expensive, and this has helped to generate a boom in pearl aquaculture there," says Laurent Cartier, a team member with Carpenter on this National Geographic expedition, and a graduate student doing his dissertation on the sustainability of pearl farming. Around 300 pearl farms are spread over some 30 islands. Andy Bardon, a photographer on the expedition team, adds, "Our photos show the extraordinary beauty of Tuamotu's coastal waters, emphasizing the importance of conserving the marine species there and the unspoiled nature of the islands."

Carpenter and his colleagues focused most of their studies on the atoll of Ahe, which has 57 cultured-pearl farmers working about 8 percent of the lagoon's surface area, and the lagoon of Fakarava, which, although much larger than Ahe, has fewer farms. The contrast between the lagoons will help show the effects of aquaculture density on ecosystems. Carpenter can also use for comparison the data he developed in a 2005 study of pearl oyster farming in the Philippines. "Through studies in multiple environments and sites with both high and low oyster-stocking densities in different lagoon environments, it gives us a representative sample of varying conditions," he explains.

What excites Carpenter about pearl aquaculture, especially in French Polynesia, is the potential for a win-win-win bottom line. The enterprise offers good jobs to island residents who otherwise might be tempted to use destructive fishing practices—say, using explosives or exceeding catch limits—in order to make a living. Most of these pearl farms ban fishing from outsiders altogether in their waters, creating safe havens for marine species, and the net bags of cultured oysters that hang 50 feet or so down in the water provide shelter for small fish. Another bonus comes from the fact that a healthy oyster produces a better pearl, giving farmers an incentive to keep water quality as high as possible.

"When you are raising oysters for food, it can mean a lot of oysters per unit area, and this can create eutrophic waters," similar to waters into which sewage has been dumped. "With pearl oysters it's a different story. If you get them too close together, they are not happy. The water needs to be clean and the oysters spaced so they don't compete for food," says Josh Humbert, an American environmentalist who has become a pearl oyster farmer on Ahe and who also was a part of the National Geographic expedition.

Some pearl farming involves the importation of non-native oyster species, which can upset an ecosystem. Also, some aquaculture practices make it easier for invasive species to come in and eat the fish or shellfish that are being grown. But Carpenter has found that the farms he has studied in the Tuamotu archipelago are entirely dependent on the natural ecosystem there as a source of juvenile oysters, and have taken steps—such as the use of net bags or cages—that seem to reduce predation.

Late this spring Carpenter was still writing his formal report on the Tuamotu research. His findings about fish populations in the lagoons there show no negative impact on fish populations, and in fact show some positive impacts. "Our results indicate that pearl farming areas show a significant increase in abundance of fishes over non-pearl farming areas," he says.
Having the Global Marine Species Assessment (GMSA) headquartered at ODU has been a boon for the university, and this is not only because of the prestige that comes from the College of Sciences being cited as a source for numerous international media reports about endangered corals, mangroves and fishes.

Last year saw the advent of an undergraduate/graduate course, Marine Conservation Biology, taught by Carpenter and his GMSA postgraduate and graduate assistants. The course launched with 35 students and will be taught every spring semester.

The GMSA has attracted talented postdoctoral researchers, such as Heather Harwell, whose Ph.D. is from the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences and who, since 2010, has helped to organize and facilitate 13 GMSA workshops probing the well-being of species ranging from Atlantic tuna to cone snails. The workshop sites literally circle the globe: Brazil, Fiji, China, Caribbean islands, Colombia and various locations in the United States.

GMSA researchers today also include three graduate research assistants, including Mia Theresa Comeros-Raynal, a geographic information systems analyst.

In the last year alone, the GMSA played leading roles in five scientific articles published in major journals. Coral species have been of particular interest to the researchers recently, and GMSA articles have been credited with bringing about U.S. government regulations that are designed to better protect threatened corals. Altogether since its inception, the GMSA has contributed close to 6,000 assessments under the Categories and Criteria of the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species.

“The work of Professor Carpenter and the GMSA is an important component of our research and education programs in the College of Sciences,” said Chris Platsoucas, the college’s dean. “Their findings help governments, businesses and individuals worldwide be better stewards of our oceans and marine species.”

The GMSA serves as the marine biodiversity unit of the IUCN and gets primary support from the Thomas W. Haas Foundation.

GMSA team members include (from left) Comeros-Raynal, Carpenter, graduate students Jack Buchanan and Christi Linardich, undergraduate intern Tanya Ramseyer, Harwell and undergraduate intern James Harrison.
REDRAWING
Asian Stereotypes
by Jim Raper

Illustrations by Jef Castro
Keith Chow ’99 grimaces when he watches Madam Blossom, played by Lucy Liu, dispense death, destruction and sultry sex in the movie “Man with the Iron Fists.” He’s not a big fan, either, of Han Lee, played by Matthew Moy, who is the butt of jokes because he is short, daffy and speaks heavily accented English in CBS Television’s “Two Broke Girls.”

The list can go on and on, Chow says. Remember Oddjob, played by Harold Sakata, the cold-blooded villain who was electrocuted by James Bond in “Goldfinger”? Or how about the overblown Chinese gangster Leslie Chow (a double insult to Keith), played by Ken Jeong in the wildly popular movie “The Hangover.”

Keith Chow’s beef is not with the real-life artists, but rather with the characters— or stereotypes—that they bring to life and perpetuate.

“The number of easily identifiable heroes of Asian descent in the (Western) culture is limited,” Chow says. “If we ask folks to name an Asian stereotype instead, chances are we’d get more responses. A few off the top of my head: silent martial artist, nerdy overachiever, perpetual foreigner, sexy dragon lady, villainous mastermind, brutish Yakuza, sacrificial lotus blossom, or overbearing ‘tiger mom.’”

But Chow doesn’t simply complain about the clichéd characters. He and a few artistic friends have banded together into what might be called the New Asian League of Superheroes to combat the subtle and not-so-subtle putdowns that American culture can hang on Asians.

Chow was born in Luray, Va., and spent much of his youth there before moving to Chesapeake while he was in high school. As a creative writing major at ODU, Chow studied under the guidance of nationally recognized poets Tim Seibles and Luisa Igloria, both of whom are still on the faculty. In his spare time he founded the Asian Pacific American Student Union, which has steadily grown from its original seven members and is going strong today. After getting his degree, he taught English at Indian River High School in Chesapeake for a few years before moving to Baltimore, where he still lives, to become the education marketing specialist for Diamond Comic Distributors, a job he kept until 2007. It has been via the comics genre that he has waged his recent campaign against Asian stereotypes.

In 2008, Chow teamed up with author Jeff Yang (“I Am Jackie Chan”), actor Parry Shen (“Better Luck Tomorrow”) and artist Jerry Ma to create “Secret Identities: The Asian American Superhero Anthology,” a comics collection published by The New Press (2009). They parlayed the book into the launch of SIUniverse Media, which is a creative agency that also holds workshops on college campuses and at institutions across the country.
“We are sharing our experiences as Asian Americans within the media and pop culture landscapes,” Chow says.

The creative quartet followed “Secret Identities” with another collection last year, “Shattered: The Asian American Comics Anthology,” also from The New Press. While the first collection focused on conventional superhero comics, this newer book expands the horizon to include edgier genres, from hard-boiled pulp to horror, adventure, fantasy and science fiction. Using this darker range of hues, the second collection seeks to subvert — to shatter – the hidebound stereotypes that have obscured the Asian image since the earliest days of immigration to the United States.

Leading Asian American writers and comics creators contributed to the new book, including Bernard Chang (“Green Lantern Corps”), Sean Chen (“Iron Man”), Cliff Chiang (“Wonder Woman”), Larry Hama (“G.I. Joe”), actress Keiko Agena (“Gilmore Girls”) and author Jamie Ford (“Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet”). Their graphic short stories — all of them original to “Shattered” — cover topics from ethnic kiddie shows, China’s AIDS policy and airline security procedures to the untold backstory of Flash Gordon’s nemesis Ming the Merciless and the gritty reality of a day in the life of a young Koreatown gangster.

Chow authored one of the stories in “Shattered,” “Peril: Welcome to the Terror,” with art by Jef Castro. It deals with stereotypes of Asians as “perpetual foreigners” and touches on the plight of undocumented immigrants. The concise storytelling that illustrated narratives require reminds him of what he learned studying poetry at ODU, he says. “I think there’s definitely a link between poetry and comics. Both mediums rely heavily on imagery, precision, the economy of words. Of course, studying and writing poetry is not a direct bridge to creating comics, but in my case, the experience has definitely enhanced my appreciation for both mediums.”

He and his partners set out at first to create “Secret Identities” because they felt that while there was a wealth of Asian American comic creators and fans, there was a significant dearth of stories featuring well-rounded Asian American heroes and characters, Chow says.

“We chose the format of the comic book because, one, we are all fans of the format, but also because superhero comics truly are a unique American mythology that also serves as a font for the rest of popular culture. From multibillion-dollar movie franchises to television to toys to video games, comic books and comic book sensibilities permeate the American psyche like nothing else. So what better vehicle to deliver our message?”
“Secret Identities” was a critical and financial success, and “Shattered” seems to be headed in the same direction. Best-selling young adult author David Yoo (“The Detention Club”) wrote in a review that the book offers “something for everyone … these stories are all ridiculously unputdownable!” Spoken-word artist Beau Sia adds that “Shattered” would have been “a truly beneficial graphic novel to have while growing up, unsure of my place in the world.”

While the young founders of SIUniverse Media have realized some success, they believe a lot of work remains to be done. Part of the problem, according to Chow, comes from how embedded the stereotypes are. Many of the stereotypes that Chow and his partners have focused on have roots in xenophobia from the 19th century and are particularly prominent in published stories and movies made between World War II and the 1980s, when America was engaged in nearly continuous conflict with Asian powers.

Momentum from the SIUniverse projects led to Chow’s commission to produce a digital comic book for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History’s Asian American exhibit, “I Want the Wide American Earth,” which was shown in May.

SIUniverse Media’s Jeff Yang also was commissioned by New York University’s Fales Library to curate an exhibition, “Marvels and Monsters: Unmasking the Asian Image in U.S. Comics, 1942–1986.” The exhibition draws on a unique array of comic books collected by science fiction author and cultural studies scholar William F. Wu, who was particularly interested in stories with Asian and Asian American characters, such as the comic book supervillain Yellow Claw. So far, the exhibition has been shown in New York and Philadelphia, and this fall it will be at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. More information about it can be found at marvelsandmonsters.org.

Promotional materials for SIUniverse Media identify Chow as its outreach specialist as well as a writer and educator. He also is cohost of the Web-based talk show about the NBA (think Jeremy Lin) for Asian Cinevision called “Joy Dunk Club.”

Brooklyn-based Yang, the founder of the pioneering Asian American periodical aMagazine, writes the Tao Jones column for The Wall Street Journal and is a regular contributor on NPR. Shen, of Southern California, is best known for his lead role in the hit MTV Films movie “Better Luck Tomorrow”; and, Ma, another New Yorker, is the founder of the graphic design studio Epic Proportions.

The four of them go on the road together for appearances, mainly on college campuses, that can include “Build a Hero” or “Build a Villain” workshops in which the SIUniverse team works with the audience to develop and draw an original superhero or archvillain that reflects a complex, nuanced and authentic cultural identity. They also offer smaller group breakout sessions that allow deeper sharing and discussion, a multimedia presentation and kiosk installations.

“What we do when we collectively build heroes with college students in our workshops is to remind them to just make their characters real human beings.”

“Secret Identities” was a critical and financial success, and “Shattered” seems to be headed in the same direction. Best-selling young adult author David Yoo (“The Detention Club”) wrote in a review that the book offers “something for everyone … these stories are all ridiculously unputdownable!” Spoken-word artist Beau Sia adds that “Shattered” would have been “a truly beneficial graphic novel to have while growing up, unsure of my place in the world.”

While the young founders of SIUniverse Media have realized some success, they believe a lot of work remains to be done. Part of the problem, according to Chow, comes from how embedded the stereotypes are. Many of the stereotypes that Chow and his partners have focused on have roots in xenophobia from the 19th century and are particularly prominent in published stories and movies made between World War II and the 1980s, when America was engaged in nearly continuous conflict with Asian powers.

Momentum from the SIUniverse projects led to Chow’s commission to produce a digital comic book for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History’s Asian American exhibit, “I Want the Wide American Earth,” which was shown in May.

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“What we do when we collectively build heroes with college students in our workshops is to remind them to just make their characters real human beings,” Chow says. “Because, ultimately, the worst crime about stereotypes is not just that they are offensive, but also it’s lazy writing.”

The SIUniverse team organized a one-day summit in Los Angeles in March called "Beyond the Bad and the Ugly" which was billed as the first ever summit on Asian American stereotypes. And Norfolk, too, may be in for a visit, Chow says. He’s currently in talks with the Asian Pacific American Student Union to bring the team to ODU this fall for a workshop or other presentation. This could provide a homecoming opportunity for him and his wife, Natsuko Kojima ’99 (M.A. ’02).

Panels from Keith Chow’s “Peril: Welcome to the Terror” in “Shattered,” with art by Jef Castro.
During her first week as a candidate for a master’s degree in creative writing at ODU, back in 1991, Zelda Lockhart (M.A. ’93) realized she had made a mistake.

“The focus was on craft and technique,” says Lockhart, who had been writing poetry for several years and, as an undergraduate at Norfolk State University, had been editor of The Rhetorician, the student literary magazine. “In one class (at ODU) we were told we would learn how to make various types of poems – villanelles, sonnets, haikus – and by the end of the course we would have a voice. But I already had a voice. So I changed my major to English literature. I thought that would broaden my scope and allow me to continue to create art by experiencing it through mentors.”

IT WAS A SMART – and characteristically forceful – move. Lockhart found her mentors on the English department faculty, particularly Dana Heller and Charles Wilson. She kept and expanded her voice. And since receiving her master's degree, she has gone on to publish three acclaimed novels, start a publishing company, and keep an impossibly busy schedule as a teacher, consultant and lecturer. Oh, and she has also found time to raise a 27-year-old son, Travis, and an 11-year-old daughter, Alex. This sunny-faced, 47-year-old writer/businesswoman/teacher seems to be powered by some whirring, inexhaustible dynamo.
Real

What

Hear
“I’M REACHING FOR EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TRUTH FROM THE ONLY PERSON I KNOW.”
—ZELDA LOCKHART

But back to those mentors. “Studying under Dana Heller was an incredibly fabulous experience,” Lockhart recalls. “Each semester I designed a reading list and what I wanted to do. In Dana’s literature classes, she offered challenging courses with intriguing discussions. She didn’t frown upon students challenging her – that was part of the intrigue and beauty of the course.”

Another influence was the poet Toi Derricotte, who was then a visiting professor at ODU. Derricotte is known for her confessional style, in the vein of Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton, and a poet who, in her own words, writes about “what is real and not what people want to hear.” It was a message young Zelda Lockhart was aching to hear.

“What was great,” she says, “was the opportunity to take a course from a writer who shared my philosophy. We met downtown at a student’s townhouse. It was a poetry workshop – we wrote a lot, but it wasn’t about form, it was about the art of poetry, expressing yourself through poetry. It was a highlight of my time at ODU – like a big vitamin infusion.”

All the while Lockhart was giving readings of her poetry, sometimes accompanied by musicians, at Norfolk coffee houses, bars and other venues. Her voice was deepening, developing new timbres.

Her thesis advisor was Wilson, now dean of the College of Arts and Letters. Lockhart, no stranger to confrontation and controversy, settled on a thesis topic that was bound to raise some eyebrows on a campus in my thesis title,” Lockhart says, “American Christianity and Its Role in the Denigration of the African-American Identity.”

“There was quite a bit of interest across campus in my thesis title,” Lockhart says, “so there was a large turnout for my thesis defense. I had to field questions and rebuttals. I loved the fact that so many people came, and that the questions had a lot of passion. Charles said he’d never seen a thesis defense that was that entertaining and invigorating.”

Wilson, then an associate professor of English, has even more vivid memories of Lockhart’s oral exam, which he conducted along with two other faculty members. “Her oral exam was by far one of the two best oral exams I’ve ever sat through,” he says. “We could not stump her with a single question. Afterwards, we made a notation in our department file just how well she had done.”

Wilson taught Lockhart African-American literature. He also read her poems.

Few students over the years have impressed him more deeply. “She was a very dynamic personality,” he says. “Authentic is the word I would use with Zelda. I recall her not just as an excellent student and a compelling writer, but also as a dedicated parent. That spoke to the full authenticity of her as a whole person. I was so ecstatic and proud when I read ‘Fifth Born.’”

LOCKHART’S FIRST NOVEL was published in 2001, eight years after she earned her master’s degree in English at ODU. Set in St. Louis and Mississippi, “Fifth Born” tells the unflinching story of Odessa Blackburn, the fifth born in a troubled family of eight children. Odessa is molested by her father and is the only witness to a murder he commits – and for these traumas she’s rewarded by being ostracized by her mother, who is intent on protecting the family’s harrowing secrets. It’s a frank, sometimes brutal dissection of the lies that can tear families – and lives – apart.

Zelda Lockhart was born in 1965 in Starkville, Miss., where her parents were born and where they were spending the summer with relatives. The Lockharts lived in St. Louis, where Zelda’s father was a mechanic and her mother was a nurse. In time they owned a grocery store and two taverns. Zelda was the fifth child in a family that would grow to eight.

She was raised in St. Louis, attending O’Salon Technical High School and planning on a career in business. But by the time she finished high school all she wanted to do was get far, far away from St. Louis – at least a thousand miles away. Anything a thousand miles to the north, west or south would put her in the middle of nowhere. A thousand miles to the east sat Norfolk, Virginia. In 1983, she went.

“I’m a survivor of child sexual abuse, and there was a lot of physical abuse as well,” she says in a voice as unflinching as the narrative voice in “Fifth Born.” “I needed to leave St. Louis and get away from my family. I thought a thousand miles was far enough that I wouldn’t be tempted to go back home.”

She rented an apartment in Norfolk’s Ocean View neighborhood and enrolled at Norfolk State University in the math and computer science department. She had not been an avid reader of fiction growing up, but that was about to change. “In my introductory literature class, I was introduced to all these African-American writers I’d never heard about – Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, Richard Wright,” she says. “I was in love, eating it up. I decided to switch my major to English because that was what I was passionate about.”

By chance, Lockhart bumped into a guy she had grown up with in St. Louis who was stationed with the Navy in Norfolk. A romance blossomed, they were married, and in 1986 Travis was born. Something else was born at the same time.

“In the days right after Travis’s birth, I felt this nagging feeling that there was something I needed to be doing,” Lockhart says. “One day while he was napping, I picked up a journal and started writing in it. And I’ve been writing every day ever since.”

The marriage soon fizzled, and as Lockhart’s interest in writing intensified, she began exploring ambivalent emotions that had been roiling her insides for years. “In the society where I grew up, nobody was talking about the ways of life, let alone sex,” she says. “I knew there were gay guys – most people said ‘faggot’ – but there was no talk about women loving women. There was no reference to it at all. It would be like being black and never seeing a picture or a book about someone who looks like you. Then I had the awakening of meeting people, and I developed a crush on a woman. Someone at school said, ‘You’re a lesbian.’

“It was exciting! There’s a word for it – and I’m not some kind of anomaly. It’s not just me. It was fabulous.”

She began publishing her poetry in The Rhetorician and eventually became editor, buoyed by what she calls a “very cozy and nurturing” atmosphere in Norfolk State’s English department. After earning her bachelor’s degree, it was on to ODU for her master’s. As she worked toward her degree, she learned that there’s no running away from family. One of her brothers, LaVenson, had moved to New York City and contracted AIDS, and it fell to her to try to ease the agony of his slow death.
BUT LOCKHART pulled herself together and finished her master's degree, then remained in the Tidewater area, writing poetry, working as an adjunct professor at Tidewater Community College and Christopher Newport University, and staging events in her West Ghent apartment.

After being knocked over by Dorothy Allison's hardscrabble debut novel, "Bastard Out of Carolina," Lockhart scraped together enough money to attend a writers' conference in Geneva, N.Y., where Allison was appearing. It would prove to be a pivotal experience.

"Dorothy was very open and helpful, answering questions about agents, giving career advice," Lockhart says. "My poems were beginning to feel like they had a plot, and she urged me to keep writing that way and go for it. I got over the question of what genre — which container — I was writing in. The thing I focused on was telling the truth — emotional, psychological and artistic truth."

The poet was morphing into a writer of fiction.

Back in Virginia, Lockhart earned some non-literary notoriety. In 1993, the Henrico County Circuit Court near Richmond had made national news when it ruled that Sharon Bottoms, a 28-year-old lesbian, was an unfit mother and awarded custody of her 2-year-old son to Sharon's mother, Kay Bottoms.

Outraged by the ruling, Lockhart wrote every day and developing a plan for getting an agent and getting published. She was living one of her beliefs: Write with the life you have.

Lockhart gave birth to Alex in March 2001 — the girl was conceived through a sperm donor — and five months later Simon & Schuster published "Fifth Born." The novel won a Discovery Award from Barnes & Noble, which recognizes promising new writers, and it was a finalist for the debut fiction award from the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Legacy Foundation.

Lockhart published a second novel, "Cold Running Creek," in 2007. It follows the lives of three generations of women living on racial and social divides, spanning the years 1834 to 1881. It has the feel of a saga, of a writer letting a story take wing. After this seeming departure, Lockhart returned to more familiar ground in 2010 for her third novel, "Fifth Born II: The Hundredth Turtle," which picks up the story of Odessa Blackburn as she moves between Mississippi and Harlem in the 1970s and '80s. The novel, which has been compared to Alice Walker's "The Color Purple," unfolds in the shadows of incest, homophobia, and the death of Odessa's brother, Lamont, from AIDS. It has won high praise from fellow writers. Dorothy Allison lauded its "genuine sense of compassion." Jill McCorkle called Lockhart "a masterful storyteller." And Randall Kenan said, "The story breathes fire."

"Cold Running Creek" and "Fifth Born II" were published by Lockhart's LaVenson Press — named in honor of her late brother — which she started in Hillsborough, N.C., in 2006 after a protracted dispute with Simon & Schuster. She and her partner split time between homes there and in nearby Durham, where Alex attends public school.

Four years ago, Lockhart became a grandmother when Travis and his partner gave birth to a daughter, Maddison. In addition to her writing and publishing work, Lockhart runs a popular website (zeldalockhart.com) and conducts writing workshops at universities, bookstores, schools, corporations and private homes.

Despite its surface differences, Lockhart insists that "Cold Running Creek" was not a departure from the two, linked Fifth Born novels — that all three books are of a piece.

"One of the underlying messages of 'Cold Running Creek' is that the things that were happening in 1831 are the same things that were happening in Starkville, Miss., in 1961 and 1981," Lockhart says. "All my books are talking about the capacity to find individual freedom. A lot of Odessa Blackburn's psychological and emotional realities are my psychological and emotional truths. Same with the other characters in my novels. All the characters. The characters are me. The struggles Lilly has as a mother (in 'Cold Running Creek') — even though she does some things I wouldn't do — she's me. What I mean is, I'm reaching for emotional and psychological truth from the only person I know."
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Will you remember... the 30th night of September? With all due respect to the R & B legends of the ‘70s, we think you’ll find this date that kicks off Homecoming week this year to be one that you won’t soon forget.

Beginning on the 30th of September, and encompassing a full week of events, Homecoming will bring you into the ODUniverse and give you a chance to experience Earth, Wind and Fire, ODU style. See how we connect with our planet as you enjoy the Tree Trail, a hidden gem that takes you along one of the greener parts of campus. Explore where the wind goes in one of the planetarium’s films on black holes and other space phenomena. Stick around after the football matchup against Liberty University and watch the fire[works] in the sky at night. And for those of you who are looking for that fourth element, what better way to experience the water than with ODU’s nationally ranked sailing team as it hosts Sailapalooza to support Operation Smile. No matter what you prefer, we guarantee that you’ll have a world of options to choose from when you come back and reconnect.

Make sure to check the back cover of this issue for a listing of events as of our print deadline. And visit www.odualumni.org/homecoming for up-to-date information on Homecoming 2013 and how to register for your place in the ODUniverse!

-Dana Allen
Assistant Vice President, Alumni Relations
Portsmouth First Citizens

Carroll and Gloria Creecy, First Couple to Win the Award

William Carroll Creecy ’61 and his wife, Gloria, are avid supporters of Old Dominion University athletics. Now they are in the record books themselves in their hometown of Portsmouth.

For the first time ever, the Portsmouth Service League gave its First Citizen award to two people, the Creecys. In the 73 previous years, there was just one Portsmouth First Citizen each year.

A Service League spokesperson told The Virginian-Pilot that the couple was nominated together and considered as one entry. Both, the spokesperson added, have “done great things for Portsmouth and Hampton Roads.”

“We are so happy for Gloria and Carroll Creecy to be honored as the first couple to be named First Citizen of Portsmouth,” said Mark Benson, ODU’s assistant vice president for athletic development. “They have been a fixture not only in the Portsmouth community but throughout Hampton Roads, and particularly at ODU. Their leadership and support of our athletic program and university have helped set the foundation for our success.”

Carroll Creecy, who founded and built a business, Sales Systems Ltd., after attending the Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary, which became ODU, is a past winner of the university’s Tim Miller Philanthropic Award. That award is named for a major donor to the ODU athletic program, which also describes the Creecys. They established the Creecy Family Scholarship Fund, which each year awards full out-of-state tuition to a men’s basketball player.

A sponsor of the Portsmouth Invitational Tournament for two decades, Creecy played in two PIT championships alongside ODU Hall of Famers Leo Anthony ’61 and Bobby Hoffman ’62. Creecy says it was his love of basketball and his friendship with Anthony that led him to get more involved with his alma mater in the early ’90s.

In their community work, Carroll’s fundraising for Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center’s heart pavilion earned him the Sister Rita Thomas Award. He has served on the Bon Secours Maryview Foundation board and with the Portsmouth Partnership. Gloria is the past president of Portsmouth Girls Inc., for which she cofounded the Strong, Smart & Bold award in recognition of women who have made a significant impact on the community. Gloria won the award herself in 2005. She also has volunteered with the Elizabeth River Project.

Gloria and Carroll Creecy flank ODU basketball player Anton Larsen ’13, a beneficiary of the Creecy Family Scholarship Fund.
1960s

Lona S. Gruber ’60 is the founder and director of SCAN Hunger Food Pantry in Berea, Ohio, and the recipient of the President’s Volunteer Service Award from President Obama. For 10 years, Southwest Community Access Network (SCAN) has provided food to needy persons living near Cleveland.

Barbara Barnett Tillett ’68 retired in December 2012, after more than 42 years as a librarian, most recently as chief of the Policy and Standards Division at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. She remains on several editorial boards and as chair of the joint steering committee developing Resource Description and Access (the new cataloging code that replaces the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules).

Lt. Gen. (Ret) Harry “Pete” Osman ’69 was the keynote speaker on global engagement for a program at ODU in February 2013. His talk was titled “America’s Role in the World.” The event was sponsored by ODU, Veterans for Smart Power and the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. Osman, a Distinguished Alumnus of ODU, retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 2006 after 37 years of active service and is currently the president and CEO of Toys for Tots.

1970s

Jim Hunt ’70 reports that he recently hiked the Hadrian Wall, near what is now the Scottish/English border in England. The original wall was 85 miles long and 14 feet high and separated the Pict tribe from England. Major Roman forts were built every seven miles, and many are still open to the public. If you would like to take the trip, which took 17 days and covered 170 miles, contact Hunt. He has been hiking since he retired in 1998 and is past president of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club.

Sam Mayo ’72 is currently serving as president of the Williamsburg Association of Realtors. Mayo is director of business development for Coldwell Banker Traditions in Williamsburg, and serves on a number of statewide committees for the Virginia Association of Realtors.

Edward Hamara ’74 retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in June 2001 after 21 years of service. He worked on both U.S. coasts, in Washington, D.C., Canada and San Juan, Puerto Rico. He also appeared on the TV shows “America’s Most Wanted,” “Unsolved Mysteries” and “The FBI Files (Terror For Sale).” Now Hamara is an avid hiker, trekking the Appalachian, John Muir and Pacific Crest trails. This spring will find him on the Camino de Santiago Trail in Spain and in July, on the Appalachian Trail. Read more at trailjournals.com/nedhamara.

Nancy Powers ’76 and her work with the city of Chesapeake Mosquito Control were the subjects of a Virginian-Pilot newspaper article. Powers, who majored in biology, was interviewed as she collected mosquito traps that track the mosquito population and allow scientists to test for disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Lynn Clements ’76 (M.E. ’80), executive director of the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, was honored late last year for her outstanding efforts while serving as chairman of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The recognition came at AZA’s annual conference in Phoenix. As the conference concluded, Clements was elected to a three-year term on the AZA board of directors. She will be the board liaison to the Government Affairs and the Enterprise committees. Clements has spent 10 of her 28 years at the Virginia Aquarium as the executive director. She also is director of museums and historic resources for the city of Virginia Beach.

HUMANITARIAN PUTS ‘FUN’ INTO FUNDRAISING

CHRIS SEHMAN ’91 received the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award from Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley at the Pentagon on Jan. 10, 2013. Sehman, an ODU alum and former student body president, was honored for his patriotism, generosity and humanitarian service toward members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

Entrepreneur Sehman owns several businesses, among them Helen Back Café in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., along the Panhandle. Through networking and his businesses, Sehman has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars through fundraising events that directly benefited over 30,000 military members and their families. He also is a dedicated Special Operations Warrior Foundation and Wounded Warrior Program advocate, and raised thousands of dollars for these military support programs.

“The military isn’t just the ‘heart’ of this community, they’re real men and women who sacrifice their time and put their own lives in peril for all Americans. I joke about having ‘military envy,’ but my deep-seated respect and admiration for them is very real,” Sehman said. “Giving them free pizza or offering them bowling specials is fun and it’s good business, but I want to make a tangible difference in their lives. I can use my own resources and access other connections to make that difference.”

Fundraising looks like fun, judging from the Helen Back website (www.helenbackcafe.com). The business sponsors golf tournaments, donates to children’s charities, supports school fundraisers and encourages new ideas for fundraisers. Helen Back Café offers free pizza every Monday night for military members at the various Helen Back locations; bowling and pizza specials are offered to military members on Wednesdays at one of Helen Back’s sister businesses in Crestview.

Kathleen Forst Putnam ’77, director of the ODU Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner Program, was second author of a research presentation at University of South Florida’s conference, “Joining Forces to Restore Lives: Nursing Education and Research in Veterans’ Health,” on Nov. 13, 2012. Putnam’s topic was titled “Prior Deployments and Years of Marriage as Correlates of Post-Deployment Adaptation in United States Navy Families.”
John W. Coates (M.P.A. ’91) was promoted from interim to permanent city manager for Carlsbad, Calif., in March. Prior to that, he served as assistant city manager and director of parks and recreation. Coates joined Carlsbad’s city administration in January 2010 with more than 30 years of leadership experience, primarily in parks and community services in Santee, Calif.; Roanoke, Va.; Norfolk and Virginia Beach. He previously worked with local government agencies for a national strategic consulting firm.

Jessica M. W. Hou ’98 (M.E. ’04) has been promoted to vice president and regional office manager of Gannett Fleming’s offices in Hampton Roads and Richmond, Va., responsible for operations and business development efforts. Hou is a licensed professional engineer in Virginia and is a board-certified environmental engineer in water supply and wastewater. She was previously a project manager in the Water Practice. Hou is active in professional associations including the Virginia Section of the American Water Works Association, Transportation Research Board and ODU’s Civil and Environmental Engineering Visiting Council.

Wayne Myers ’78 was promoted to plans and programs engineer at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio, in June 2012. Myers serves as project leader for facility planning and operations, and technical expert for civil engineering for all Air Force laboratory facilities, among other duties.

Patricia Aeberli Cordell ’79 graduated March 3, 2013, from Walden University with a master’s degree in nursing informatics. She has worked in the physician informatics department at Florida Hospital Orlando since September 2010.

Richard Perkins ’80 reports that he is a co-author of a paper titled “Evaluation and joint inversion of TTI velocity models with walkaway VSP in deep-water offshore Angola” which appeared in the February 2013 issue of The Leading Edge, published by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

Christine Heine Mueller ’84 has been appointed as the associate dean for academic programs at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing.

Lisa C. Jeffress ’87 has written, illustrated and published her first book, “The View From My Window.” It is a book of poetry about the little bud that blossomed into a beautiful flower, but purposefully retained a few thorns in order to remember the pain that made it stronger. It is about the inner struggles of many who give of their hearts and souls, while losing self. It is available on Amazon.com.

Tom McGraw (M.A. ’87) has been named president and CEO of Noridian Administrative Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Noridian Mutual Insurance Co., in Fargo, N.D. McGraw has more than 25 years of experience in health care, developing and managing operations and consulting practices in government and the private sector. He held executive posts at Amerigroup Corp. and OptumInsight, a United Health Group health technology company. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, McGraw also completed doctoral studies in business at Virginia Commonwealth University and is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute near Charlottesville, Va.

Caroline Schloss ’88 is making and selling Link Soap, that she promotes as “your link to healthier skin: a natural shea butter, honey and oatmeal soap that exfoliates, polishes, moisturizes and leaves a pleasantly light scent without residue.” Visit http://linksoap.com for more information.

Mark Piland ’89 became the new fire chief of Frisco, Texas, earlier this year after serving as chief of Volusia (Fla.) County Fire Services. Piland was assistant chief with the Virginia Beach Fire Department when he retired in 2011. In Virginia Beach, he served as team leader of Virginia Task Force 2, an urban search and rescue group, which deployed to the Pentagon following the 9/11 terrorist attack and to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

1980s

1990s

Micah Alderman Scott ’90, director of the ODU Family Nurse Practitioner Program, provided a podium research presentation at University of South Florida’s conference, “Joining Forces to Restore Lives: Nursing Education and Research in Veterans’ Health,” on Nov. 13, 2012. Scott’s topic was titled “Prior Deployments and Years of Marriage as Correlates of Post-Deployment Adaptation in United States Navy Families.”

David Chandler ’91 passed the NCEES Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam in October 2012, and by December 2012, had received his Professional Engineer license from the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.
Andrew Stone (M.S. ’91) was named an assistant vice president, business banking, for Monarch Bank, a subsidiary of Monarch Financial Holdings Inc. He will work in the bank’s corporate offices in Chesapeake. Stone holds an undergraduate degree from Virginia Military Institute.

Amy Whilldin ’92 has taken the lead PR role in her new position as vice president of public relations for Domus Inc., a marketing communications firm in Philadelphia. Whilldin joined Domus in April 2011.

Christine Tysor ’99 has been named program manager at Virginia Tech’s Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, assigned to support its research projects in national security and cognition and communication. Tysor entered the U.S. Navy through the Hampton Roads Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. A former Navy pilot, she completed her sea tour with more than 800 mishap-free flight hours. She then served as a NROTC instructor at Virginia Tech and earned an M.S. Ed. with an emphasis in health promotion. Tysor joined the research institute in 2011 and has managed research projects for the Center for Naval Systems, with $14.2 million in contract funding, and for EMBERS, a national intelligence research project.

Cindy Mackey ’77 Settled in After ODU

Cindy Mackey came to Old Dominion University from outside the region, but decided to stay in Hampton Roads after she finished her studies. The university figures there are about 350 graduates each year that fit that bill.

This, of course, is good news for the region. “The Hampton Roads economy is enhanced by having college graduates remain in our region,” said Jack Hornbeck, president and CEO of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce. “They improve our workforce, boost salary levels and have the disposable income to benefit our economy. Their leisure time is spent at restaurants, entertainment venues, cultural events and volunteering.”

This pretty well describes Mackey, who is known as a supporter of the arts in Hampton Roads and for her volunteer work with organizations such as Norfolk’s Hope House.

An Alexandria, Va., native, Mackey graduated from ODU in 1977 with a bachelor’s degree in sociology/criminal justice. She has lived in the region ever since, except for one brief stint in Texas. “My husband and I moved to Austin for a couple years, but we returned here to be close to family and our friends. We loved it in Austin, but there is incredible warmth in Hampton Roads that you don’t always find in other places,” she said.

“I am an Army brat and moved every two years throughout my childhood. I had moved 25 times before I got married in 1997. Hampton Roads is a welcoming place, and I have developed friendships that I cherish.”

Mackey said one of the reasons she chose ODU was because of its proximity to the beach, and she still considers the water as one of her favorite aspects of life in Hampton Roads. “Put me on a sailboat and I’m the happiest I will ever be. I love the beach and the rivers.”

She and her husband, Scott, run Mackey Ink, a creative house in Norfolk that focuses on advertising, marketing and public relations. Its services include brand development, strategic development for promotions and event planning.

–Bryoney Hayes ’10 (M.A. ’12)
Jeffrey A. Fuller (M.S. Ed. ‘95) was appointed superintendent of the Freedom Area School District in Beaver County, Pa. Previously he was assistant superintendent for elementary education at the Seneca Valley School District, also in Pennsylvania. Fuller also earned a doctorate in education from Duquesne University. He reports that education seems to be the right career for him. His father, mother and grandmother were teachers, and he taught at elementary and middle schools in Virginia before moving back to his home state of Pennsylvania in 1998. He and his wife, Amy, have two children.


John Kiefer ‘97 (Ph.D. ‘01) was co-editor of a book, “Natural Hazard Mitigation,” published in 2012 as a text for graduate students in public administration, emergency management, or disaster science. Kiefer also served as guest editor of the spring 2013 edition of the Journal of Public Affairs Education, which focused on studies in emergency management. He is the director of the Master of Public Administration program at the University of New Orleans.

GREGORY C. HUTCHINGS JR. ‘00 was named superintendent of the Shaker Heights, Ohio, public schools in April. Hutchings last served as director of PreK-12 initiatives in Alexandria (Va.) public schools, a position similar to an assistant superintendent in other districts. He earned a B.S. in interdisciplinary studies from ODU, a master’s in educational leadership from George Mason University and a doctorate in educational policy, planning and leadership from the College of William and Mary in 2010. Hutchings also worked in public schools in Manassas, Va., and Nashville, Tenn. He was named Tennessee Middle School Principal of the Year in 2009, and was a fellow at the National Institute of Urban Leaders at Harvard University. Hutchings and his wife, Cheryl, a certified public accountant, have two children, ages 3 and 7.

Lesely Anderson Riley ‘95 graduated in May 2013 from East Carolina University with a master’s degree in nursing education. This fall, she will begin the nurse practitioner program at ECU, focusing on adult gerontology.

Mike McCaffrey ‘00 was appointed athletic director of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Ind., after serving as interim director for nearly a year. In 2011, McCaffrey was a graduate of Leadership Fort Wayne and selected as one of 40 individuals for the Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly 40 Under 40 Team, which honors young community leaders. McCaffrey joined Saint Francis in

WEDDING BELLS TO CHIME
Christina Marsilii ‘09 and Luke Wence ‘09 became engaged in January and plan to marry on Sept. 28, 2013, in Purcellville, Va. This photo is one of Christina’s favorites, taken at their first Old Dominion University football game.
Amanda Wroten ’02 has been named executive director of the Humane Society and the Gloucester-Mathews-Middlesex Animal Shelter. Wroten is an alumni member of the newly formed ODU equestrian team. She teaches and volunteers at Yorktown Stables, and shows a Tennessee walking horse, Gold, in regional events. Wroten and husband Scott Rumpf share their Mathews home with numerous pets. She is also an adjunct lecturer of communications at ODU and Christopher Newport University and served as executive director of the Newport News Green Foundation for the past four years.

Student Recreation
2008 as director of sports marketing and promotions. He previously was general manager of the Fort Wayne Fusion football team.

Steven Crawford ’01 (M.S. Ed. ’05) accepted a position as project manager for instructional design in January 2013 in Educational Support Services at Arizona State University Health Solutions in Phoenix, Ariz. He writes, “I manage a team to support online, blended, and face-to-face courses of the health-related colleges and schools at ASU.” He also is a licensed facilitator and peer reviewer for Quality Matters, an international quality assurance process that certifies the design of online and blended courses.

Kevin L. Lewis ’03 was named the assistant superintendent of the Loudoun County, Va., school district, and will direct the district’s Support Services Department. Lewis had overseen the district’s school construction for eight years during a period of record growth in school population. Lewis previously worked

2008 as director of sports marketing and promotions. He previously was general manager of the Fort Wayne Fusion football team.

Following
her Bliss

Trinity Perkins ’09 Creates
Train with Trin

One year and 47 clients later, Trinity Perkins ’09 still trusts her instincts and keeps her passion at the forefront of every decision she makes. “Life is so much more rewarding when you are doing something you love,” she says. “Too many people spend too much time doing things they cannot wait to stop doing.”

In 2011 Trinity could not wait to end the workday at her corporate job so she could work her part-time job as a personal trainer. After six months at both jobs, she began to consider full-time training, her real passion. Around the tenth month, she began networking with local full-time trainers to get insight on how to be successful in the industry. While on a lunch break, one month later, she established her limited liability corporation and gave her three-week notice to her employer.

That was the start of Train With Trin LLC in Woodbridge, Va.

In addition to working with 47 motivated and dedicated clients in the first year, Perkins was able to sign a contract to run her business out of a private studio and parlay her creativity and love for cooking into a magazine feature. She found a healthy way to make her favorite dessert and pitched it to Oxygen magazine. The editors loved it and Trinity’s Ezekiel Bread Pudding graced a full page in the January 2013 issue.

Trinity’s success in her first year of business can be traced to her philosophy, which is grounded in teaching clients how to “live every day to the fittest.” Her dedication to personalizing the workout experience and meeting the unique needs of every client has led to clients sharing their positive experiences with friends, family, co-workers and even strangers. “Trinity is an amazing trainer and really takes the time to learn your body and eating habits to help you meet your weight loss goals. She definitely cares about her clientele and for that I am very grateful,” says client Ayesha Shoulders.

Trinity also believes that consistent visibility is a key driver to her business success. She takes every opportunity to promote her business in daily offline interactions, but also utilizes her blog, two Facebook pages, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram to promote her brand and illustrate her own healthy lifestyle. “People are always searching the Internet for quality exercise and nutrition advice so I do my best to regularly post tips, advice, photos and original recipes,” she says.

Trinity credits her bachelor’s degree in communications from Old Dominion University as integral to her fast start in business. “As a business owner and trainer, being able to connect with people on a personal and professional level is essential to their success with the programs and my success in business overall,” she says. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree in health education from Kaplan University.

Trinity hopes to solidify her online training program and finish her first exercise and nutrition book within her second year of business. For more information about Trinity and her training programs, visit www.trainwithtrin.com.

–Brian Citizen ’10
ROBERT J. HESS ’10 DIES IN COMBAT

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Robert Joseph “R.J.” Hess, 26, a Black Hawk pilot from Fairfax, Va., was killed April 23, 2013, in Pul-E-Alam, Afghanistan. The 2010 criminal justice graduate of Old Dominion University had been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom less than two weeks earlier. He died after being wounded by indirect enemy fire.

He was assigned to the 2nd Aviation Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Hess was a member of the swimming and diving team at ODU. A graduate of Robinson High School in Fairfax, he played linebacker on a state championship football team. He also swam for three years at Robinson, garnering three state championships.

He joined the Army in 2010. The highly decorated soldier was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

His father, retired Army Col. Robert T. Hess, is a 1982 graduate of ODU. He is also survived by his mother, Lauren, and brother, Patrick.

in the construction industry, including a job as a mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering designer for C. L. Worthington Jr. Consulting Engineer in Winchester, Va.

John Mathew (Ph.D. ’03), visiting professor in history at Duke University, was invited to present “The Making of Zoology in Eurocolonial India” at Azim Premji University in Bangalore, India. Mathew grew up in Iraq, Jordan, Libya and India, and earned three degrees from Madras Christian College in India before studying at ODU. He also earned a master’s in medical anthropology and a doctorate in the history of science from Harvard. His latest interest is a desire to blend his training in science and history with his love of the theater.

Shane Nault (M.E.M. ’03), president of Building EnergetiCx, was named a member of the Charlotte, N.C., “40 Under 40” class of 2013, a program that honors young leaders. Prior to founding Building EnergetiCx, he served as a principal and director for H.C. Yu and Associates and Yu Consulting Engineers.

Naomi Pitcock ’04 received a DNP in nursing from the University of Virginia in May 2013 and has accepted a position as assistant professor at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va.

Allen Glazer ’05 has been director of operations since fall 2009 for the New York Life Insurance Co. general office in Knoxville, Tenn. He joined the company in 2007, and lived in Richmond, Va., and Charleston, S.C., before moving to Knoxville. Glazer was married on Oct. 5, 2012, in Charlottesville, Va.

Laura A. Blair ’06 has gained credentials as a National Certified Counselor (NCC) through the National Board of Certified Counselors Inc. Currently employed by Zeiders Enterprises Inc., and living in Fallon, Nev., Blair joins more than 40,000 NCCs who are certified by the national board.

Patrick Walsh ’06, who heads Metro Communications’ Vacation Channel division in Hampton, and who lives in Norfolk, was featured in the “Inside Fitness” section of Hampton Roads’ Inside Business newspaper. An avid runner, he was pictured wearing ODU Monarchs jogging gear. “I’m an ODU guy through and through. We go to all the games,” Walsh told the newspaper.

John Davey ’09 recently accepted a position as lead teacher for third grade at Nashoba Brooks School of Concord located in Concord, Mass. Davey received a master’s degree in education from Lesley University in May 2012 and has been elected president of the Massachusetts Iota chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon (Boston College) alumni and volunteer corporation.

Alice McCann ’09 has joined government affairs and public relations firm O’Neill and Associates in Boston as an account coordinator in its communications section. McCann started with the firm, now headed by CEO Thomas P. O’Neill III, as a public relations intern in the firm’s nonprofit and financial sectors. She will provide PR support including messaging and branding, media relations, marketing and media training. McCann earned a bachelor’s degree in history from ODU and a master’s degree in integrated marketing communications from Suffolk University. She was the deputy finance director for U.S. Rep. Glenn Nye, D–Norfolk, in his unsuccessful re-election campaign in 2010, and helped raise $2 million for the candidate’s campaign war chest.

2010s

Thomas Joseph ’12 was featured in a Virginian-Pilot newspaper article about his music compositions and a concert of his works that was held at Virginia Wesleyan University.

Timothy Woodard ’12 built on his associate of science degree in management/marketing from Thomas Nelson Community College, received in 2008, to graduate with a bachelor of science in marketing from ODU in 2012.
Wish Upon A Star

Camille Cowin ’10 (M.B.A. ’11) Gets Disney Dream Job

Camille Cowin is well on the way to her happily ever after. A lifelong love of Disney has helped lead the Old Dominion University M.B.A. graduate to a marketing job at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., doing relationship management with visitors to the iconic attraction. “I wake up every morning excited to go to work,” Cowin said.

And her journey from Norfolk to the Magic Kingdom has been a bit of a fairy tale. The daughter of U.S. Navy parents, Cowin lived all over the country and developed her love of all things Disney early on. “Disney has touched everyone’s life in some way,” she said. “They make you laugh, cry, dream and want to be amazing. I was hooked ever since I saw ‘The Little Mermaid.’ ”

While still in high school, Cowin hatched her plan that would lead to her eventually working for The Walt Disney Co. First, she chose the business school at Old Dominion, which has a reputation for innovative, hands-on instruction, and a track record of successful business graduates. Graduating magna cum laude with a B.S. in business administration in 2010, Cowin acquired more tools during her M.B.A. studies that she would ultimately use in applying for, and getting, her dream job. “Many of the courses at ODU involved working with teams, which helped me tremendously,” Cowin said. “At Disney, everyone works together to create amazing things, and we do this as a team.”

By the time her school career was coming to an end in 2011, she had set her sights squarely on Walt Disney World. But there, her story made a twist and turn. She applied for an internship she thought was the key to her dream career -- and didn’t get the job.

But she remembered the words to “A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes,” from “Cinderella,” and pressed on. “I kept telling myself, ‘No matter how your heart is grieving, if you keep on believing, the dream that you wish will come true.’”

Cowin moved to Florida after graduation, and so did her parents. “They knew I wanted to work for Disney and wanted to support me in any way they could, which meant even moving to Florida themselves,” she said.

Once there, Cowin applied for every job she could, learning from each experience what Disney was looking for in its employees. Finally, she received a call inviting her to apply for another internship with the post-booking team. The slipper fit.

Since late 2012, Cowin has been working for Disney World as a customer managed relationship program associate, creating direct marketing communications tailored to park guests. “I can honestly say it is exactly what I expected,” she said. “People here dream big and believe that anything is possible, which inspires me every day.”

–Brendan O’Hallarn
IN REMEMBRANCE

Donna B. Evans
Donna B. Evans, former dean of the Darden College of Education at Old Dominion University, died March 27, 2013, in her hometown of Columbus, Ohio.

Evans led the Darden College as its first female dean from 1995 to 2000. She stepped down at ODU to become dean of the College of Education at Ohio State University in Columbus. In 2003, she was appointed as the John Glenn Scholar in Urban Educational Policy at OSU’s John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy, where she was able to pursue her strong interest in the critical issues facing large urban school systems.

During her tenure at Old Dominion, Evans was instrumental in establishing the Professional Development Schools program, which enhanced education for urban children by offering professional development opportunities for practicing educators and training for prospective teachers. Evans also took responsibility for updating the college’s computer facilities and emphasized technology in the teacher education curriculum.

Petra E. Snowden, retired director of urban education in the Ph.D. in Urban Services Program at ODU and former Darden faculty chair, remembers Evans as a colleague and friend.“As dean, she encouraged and supported all faculty members, especially in areas such as equity pay adjustments, freed new faculty from heavy teaching loads to pursue research, created a welcoming college environment and upheld all inclusive ethical standards,” Snowden said.

Evans earned all three of her degrees from Ohio State’s College of Education: a bachelor’s in elementary education, master’s in counselor education and doctorate in counselor education and educational administration. Evans is survived by her daughter, Jocelyn B. Smith of Encino, Calif., son-in-law, and two grandchildren.

Cheryl Troy Samuels
Cheryl Troy Samuels, who served as dean of Old Dominion’s College of Health Sciences for four years, starting in July 2000, died March 23, 2013, in Rockville, Md., after battling ovarian cancer for more than five years.

Samuels was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., where her father was a U.S. Navy ferry pilot during World War II. Raised in Toledo, Ohio, she earned a certificate of dental hygiene and a bachelor’s degree in education from Ohio State University; a master’s in dental hygiene education from the University of Michigan; and Ph.D. in policy sciences from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Her career was spent in higher education.

For 17 years Samuels served as chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene at the University of Maryland Dental School in Baltimore. Later, she served as dean of the College of Allied Health and Nursing at Minnesota State University in Mankato; and provost and vice president for academic affairs at both Texas Woman’s University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

An intrepid world traveler with a zest for life, Samuels was an avid reader, tenacious debater, academic visionary and mentor to young women. She is survived by her husband, Jeff; daughter, Courtney; son, Blair; her parents and two sisters.

Timothy J. Motley
Timothy J. Motley, the J. Robert Stiffler Distinguished Professor of Botany at Old Dominion University and director of science at the Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG), died March 28, 2013, in Rockville, Md., after battling ovarian cancer for more than five years.

Motley was born in Toledo, Ohio, where he attended schools and was a member of the class of 1971 at St. Joseph’s Catholic High School. After high school, he attended Ohio State University and earned a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1975. He then attended the University of Georgia and earned a master’s degree in botany in 1977.

After spending a few years at ODU, Musselman said his colleague had “the gift, unusual among plant biologists, of being able to communicate botany with the general public, an ability he used both at the (Norfolk Botanical) Garden and in teaching undergraduate courses at ODU.”

Motley said that his colleague had arranged an internship program enabling ODU students to work at NBG for credit this semester. “That was one of his many legacies in his few years at ODU,” Musselman added.

Motley, who grew up on a farm in central Illinois, became interested in plants and gardening at an early age. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in botany at Eastern Illinois University. But for his doctoral work, he moved to the University of Hawaii, Manoa, and his core research became Pacific-based. “I am intrigued by how these remote islands became populated by plants and animals, and what the relationships are between plants that occur on separate islands or archipelagos,” he said in an interview soon after arriving at ODU in 2006.

Prior to joining ODU, Motley was associate curator of the Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Program for Molecular Systematics Studies at The New York Botanical Garden. The molecular studies program was just getting started when he took a job there in 1997. “When I saw this position in Norfolk, I once again saw a chance to build a molecular plant research program with the NBG and Old Dominion,” Motley said in the 2006 interview.

He won national praise for a book that he edited together with two colleagues and for which he wrote several chapters, “Darwin’s Harvest: New Approaches to the Origins, Evolution, and Conservation of Crops.” The book addresses concerns about the loss of crop-plant diversity throughout the world.

William W. Patterson Jr.
William W. “Bill” Patterson Jr. of Virginia Beach, associate professor emeritus of information systems and decision sciences at Old Dominion University, died March 7, 2013, after a brief illness. He was 86.

Born and raised in Naugatuck, Conn., Patterson was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy, graduated and was commissioned in 1951. He served in the Navy for 20 years, and, after earning an M.B.A. from ODU in 1971, he began his second career on the faculty of the College of Business and Public Administration as an instructor of information systems/decision sciences.

He was promoted to associate professor in 1983 and held positions as assistant dean, associate dean and acting dean. He retired in June 1997 after 26 years at ODU.

Gilbert Yochum, dean of the college, called Patterson “one of the most notable and formative figures in the history of our college. Those of us who knew him were honored to be associated with him.”

Patterson is survived by his wife Dorothy; daughters Kim Cunningham and Tricia Rogerson; son Trip Patterson; their spouses and six grandchildren.

John W. Shuler
John W. Shuler, 92, of Suffolk, former president of the Old Dominion University Research Foundation, died Jan. 15, 2013. A decorated veteran of WWII, he turned a degree in chemistry into a career in the wood preserving business and was recognized as a Life Member of the American Wood Preservers Association.

He served terms on the Portsmouth School Board in the 1960s and 1980s and was elected to the ODU Research Foundation board of trustees in 1981. He served as the foundation’s vice president, 1987-93, and president, 1993-96. He is survived by four children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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IN MEMORIAM

JOHN M. SEWELL '32 of Chesapeake, 3/7/13
LEWIS THOMAS '34 of Portsmouth, 1/18/13
J. JAMES DAVIS JR. '40 of Chesapeake, 1/27/13
WILLIAM L. BRITTINGHAM '42 of Norfolk, 3/18/13
MICHAEL J. EVANS '42 of Portsmouth, 2/14/13
CLEON W. HARRIS JR. '42 of Virginia Beach, 3/13/13
J. PATRICK MURPHY '42 of Norfolk, 11/4/12
JAMIS L. KIRACOFE '43 of Virginia, Va., 11/24/12
MARGIE EASLEY MAROULIS '44 of Norfolk, 11/16/12
JEAN P. ALLEN '45 of Norfolk, 11/22/12
THOMAS J. EAST II '46 of Virginia Beach, 12/12/12
FRANCES J. DUNFIELD '66 of Virginia Beach, 11/16/12
SILVIA M. EWELL '65 of Virginia Beach, 11/26/12
WALTER L. ("BUDDY") CONNER JR. '67 of Portsmouth, 1/8/13
HOWARD L. HUBBARD JR. '52 of Portsmouth, 1/8/13
HARDAWAY S. "AB" ABERNATHY (M.S. ED. '73) of Newport News, 11/22/13
NANCY L. NEAL '69 of Virginia Beach, 11/16/12
LINDA DOLL HODGDON '64 of Virginia Beach, 11/26/12
GLADYS L. GUIGNOT '49 of Norfolk, 11/11/13
EARLINA "Kit" SIMMONS OWENS '49 of Virginia Beach, 2/16/12
WILLIAM M. PATTERTSON '50 of Suffolk, 3/23/13
PHILIP N. TRAHADIAS '50 of Virginia Beach, 12/20/12
HOWARD L. HUBBARD JR. '52 of Portsmouth, 11/24/12
ADELAI DAWSON QUATTLEBAUM '54 of Newport News, 12/27/12
JOSHDIAH J. PARR '55 of Norfolk, 11/28/12
CHARLOTTE MINGS TUTTLE '55 of Portsmouth, 2/28/13
WAYNE E. BRAUN '57 of Virginia Beach, 3/21/13
JOHN WILLIAM EVERS SR. '57 of Newport News, 1/11/13
STEVEN L. FOLSOM JR. '59 of Hampton, 2/8/13
WILLIAM I. FOSTER JR. '60 of Virginia Beach, 11/7/12
HARRY A. GLICK '61 of Virginia Beach, 11/22/12
HOWARD R. KNIGHT '61 of Hampton, 12/28/12
JOHN D. W. CASSADA JR. '62 of Virginia Beach, 3/5/13
JACK M. HENLEY '62 of Virginia Beach, 2/13/13
JUNE ELMORE LYONS '62 of June Beach, Fla., 11/28/13
WILLIAM E. FULLER JR. '63 of Norfolk and Royal Palm Beach, Fla., 2/25/13
JAMES E. BRYAN '64 of Norfolk, 11/8/12
LINDA DOLL HODGDON '64 of Kissatt Island, N.C., 1/30/13
SYLVIA M. EVELL '65 of Virginia Beach, 3/13/13
STANLEY C. FINCHER '65 of Suffolk, 1/7/13
ELIZABETH BELL ROBINSON '65 of Nashville, Tenn., 1/29/13
KAY PRINCE SYRES '65 (M.S. ED. '71) of Chesapeake, 3/13/13
NORMA C. WARANCH '65 of Virginia Beach, 12/16/12
VIRGINIA R. ARMSM ONG '66 (M.S. ED. '71) of Norfolk, 12/30/12
FRANCES J. DUNFIELD '66 of Wappinger Falls, N.Y., 12/18/12
WALTER L. ("Buddy") CONNER JR. '67 of Richmond, 12/10/12
ALLEN R. GRISSOM '67 of Virginia Beach, 2/12/13
WILLIAM E. MENTTS JR. '67 of Charlotte, N.C., 1/8/13
RICHARD L. PERCEFULL SR. '67 of Suffolk, 12/28/12
NANCY L. NEAL '69 of Summerfield, Fla., 2/10/13
JAMES E. BROWN Jr. '71 of Wilsons, Va., 11/24/12
CLAUDIA R. DAVENPORT '71 of Chesapeake, 2/25/13
SYTHA M. MCPHERSON MAXWELL '71 (M.S. ED. '81) of Virginia Beach, 11/11/13
STEPHEN M. BARNEY '74 of Norfolk, 3/23/13
MARY MARTHA CARROLL '74 (M.S. ED. '77) of Dallas, Texas, 1/16/13
LARRY L. CLARK '74 (M.U.S. '81) of Virginia Beach and Duck, N.C., 11/15/12
CARL K. HANSEN (M.S. ED. '74) of Norfolk and Chattanooga, Tenn., 3/14/13
PEGGY BONNEY KIRACOFE '74 of Windsor, Va., 3/23/13
LOUISE Z. WICKER '74 of Virginia Beach, 11/26/12
LT. CMDR. ROBERT L. COX, USN (RET) '75 (M.B.A. '76) of Bristol, Tenn., 2/18/13
MICHAEL T. LOPS (M.B.A. '75) of Hilton Head, S.C., 2/14/13
R. EDWARD SHAYER '75 of Baltimore, Md., 11/2/12
ANN SIMPSON TURNER '75 of Suffolk, 1/29/13
SANDRA B. BRIGGS '76 of Windsor, Va., 2/9/13
MABEL ROBERSON LEBLANC '76 of Virginia Beach, 3/8/13
BRUCE A. THOMAS '77 of Norfolk, 1/15/13
CMDR. EDWARD H. CALHILL, USN (RET) '78 of Virginia Beach, 1/12/13
LILLIAN FORD DONNALLY (M.S. ED. '78) of Chesapeake, 3/2/13
H. GORDON KIRKHAM '79 of Mechanicsville, Va., 3/29/13
NANCY HAMILTON LECA TO (M.S. ED. '79) of Nassawadox, Va., 3/16/13
GEORGE N. MAY (M.P.A. '80) of Chesapeake, 2/19/13
J. GORDON PEELER JR. '80 of Norfolk, 2/7/13
ANTOINETTE (TONI) M. STILES '80 (M.S. ED. '82) of Virginia Beach, 2/22/13
BARRY D. STRINGER '80 of Norfolk, 12/8/12
EVELYN M. GRAHAM '81 of Suffolk, 1/5/13
LT. EDWARD T. RUCCA SR., USN (RET) '81 of Virginia Beach, 3/15/13
SANDRA G. WRIGHT '81 of Norfolk, 12/14/12
NANCY MICHELLE GRENIER '82 of Newport News, 11/22/12
TIMOTHY M. MEADORS '82 of Danville, Va., 3/3/13
RONALD E. SAWYER (M.A. '82) of Chattanooga, Tenn., 3/23/13
TRACY "TROY" CLEMONS SR. '84 of Chesapeake, 3/4/13
PAUL A. KEYES SR. '84 of Mechanicsville, Va., 11/3/13
JOSEPH M. WICKER '84 of Virginia Beach, 3/15/13
CARL K. HANSEN (M.S. ED. '74) of Norfolk and Chattanooga, Tenn., 3/17/13
JAMES K. WICKER '84 of Windsor, Va., 2/9/13
MARY A. MARTIN (ED.S. '05) of Virginia Beach, 3/2/13
ALAN J. BOYD '84 of Newport News, 1/21/12
JOYCE F. BASCOMBE (M.S. ED. '87) of Hampton, 2/22/13
ANN S. SUGGEST '88 of Virginia Beach, 12/6/12
RICHARD J. VANHOOK (M.S. ED. '84) of Suffolk, 12/28/12
DIANA M. HULSE '84 of Williamsburg, 2/20/13
LAURA C. KESSLER '86 of Virginia Beach, 12/11/12
ROBERT J. VANHOOK (M.S. ED. '84) of Suffolk, 12/28/12
RENEE K. FINE '87 of Newport News, 1/11/13
JOSEPH B. BLAKE '88 of Virginia Beach, 1/24/13
EDWARD S. JONES '02 of Virginia Beach, 3/24/13
SCOTT W. SAUNDERS SR. '96 of Isle of Wight, Va., 3/23/13
STEVEN M. BARNEY '97 of Portsmouth, 12/31/12
J. PATRICK MURPHY '42 of Newport News, 1/21/12
MELVIN T. KIRACOFE '43 of Newport News, 1/15/12
VINCENT J. MARTIN (M.S. ED. '79) of Virginia Beach, 2/16/13
BRITTNEY WHITEHEAD '12 of Charles City, Va., 11/1/13

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Exciting Time in ODU Sports
We Need Your Support As Never Before

BY WOOD SELIG, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

We are just weeks away from officially joining Conference USA! This move is a game changer for Old Dominion University and one for which we are extremely excited. As a result of joining C-USA on July 1, our football program will be elevated from the FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) to the first-tier FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision) level. We will have six home games this fall, highlighted by the annual Oyster Bowl on Sept. 28 against Albany and our Homecoming game on Oct. 5 versus Liberty.

The Monarchs will get a taste of FBS football right out of the gate with our opener at East Carolina on Aug. 31, followed by other FBS road games at the universities of Maryland, Pittsburgh, Idaho and North Carolina.

I hope you will consider joining us either at home or for some of our road contests this fall.

In the coming years, the Monarchs will play host at Foreman Field at S.B. Ballard Stadium to top programs including North Carolina State and Virginia Tech. Our goal is to continue to make ODU football the hottest ticket in Hampton Roads and to build on the incredible success our program has enjoyed under Coach Bobby Wilder’s leadership.

This past spring, five of our teams were allowed to compete for a Conference USA Championship ahead of our official July 1 entry date. Men’s and women’s tennis, men’s and women’s golf, and women’s rowing competed for C-USA championships and laid the foundation for our other teams to follow. History was made by our women’s tennis program, as they were the first team from Old Dominion to compete in a C-USA Championship. They won their first-round event over UAB.

Old Dominion continues to redefine our athletic structure and program. As a result of moving to Conference USA, we join the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech as the only FBS institutions in the state. We continue to set records in game attendance, fundraising, annual giving and corporate support. Old Dominion University Sports Properties hit an all-time high last year with more than $2.3 million generated from corporate sponsorships.

We continue to enhance our athletic facilities. We have raised more than $600,000 in cash and pledges for the construction of a new baseball indoor hitting facility. We have over $4 million in committed cash and pledges for a basketball practice facility and have received $1.5 million in verbal pledges. This brings us even closer to our $8 million goal. If you would like to support either of these facility projects or other capital and annual fund efforts, please visit the Old Dominion Athletic Foundation’s website www.olddominionaf.com or call 757-683-6963.

Our annual fund is already off to a successful start following this spring’s reseating of football. ODAF members had the opportunity to select their seats from May 14 through June 1 as part of our reseating program. I offer our sincere thanks to you and our fans who purchased season tickets for the 2013 football campaign, insuring us of a fifth consecutive sellout season.

There will also be plenty of ticket opportunities for you to catch our football team on the road this year. We will have 4,000 tickets available to our game at East Carolina (Aug. 31), 1,200 tickets to our game at Maryland (Sept. 7), and 5,000 tickets available to our road game at the University of North Carolina (Nov. 23).

On the basketball front, we introduced Jeff Jones to our university and community on April 4 as the new head coach of our men’s program. (See feature article, page 58.) Coach Jones brings 21 years of head coaching experience to Old Dominion, including eight at the University of Virginia and 13 years at American University. His teams have enjoyed winning regular seasons and successful NCAA postseason play, as Coach Jones has averaged 17 wins per season throughout his head coaching career.

Our student-athletes will benefit greatly from his experience as both a college player and a collegiate head coach.

I encourage our Monarch fans to personally greet Coach Jones over the next several months at the many events he will attend in Hampton Roads and at our ODAF Caravan stops. Coach Jones and our student-athletes welcome your support as we head into the 2013-14 basketball season.

In closing, I would like to congratulate our 68 student-athletes who graduated from Old Dominion University this spring and proudly displayed their ODU athletic medallions over their gowns during commencement exercises.

Academic success is one of the cornerstones of our athletic program’s strategic plan and an area that we continue to enhance with the addition of academic counselors, tutors and study programs, as well as through the vigilance of our academic staff and coaches. Congratulations also go to women’s basketball standout Mairi Buchan, Jocelyn Widener of women’s soccer and football’s Jonathan Plisco, who were all finalists for the University’s prestigious Kaufman Award, presented to a graduating senior who demonstrates outstanding academic success, and community and campus involvement.

Old Dominion Athletics has had an incredible year and we look forward to what lies ahead as we turn the corner to a new era. Thank you for your support of our efforts.
Kent Bazemore couldn’t feel more at home on the Golden State Warriors – an underdog team of overlooked players that has exceeded expectations. For the NBA rookie and surprise Internet star, it continues the theme of his whole basketball career.

In high school, Bazemore was a gangly, athletic point guard for tiny Bertie High School in eastern North Carolina. He admits to being jealous of the snazzy uniforms and modern gymnasiums he saw when his team visited big-city schools.

His only basketball scholarship offer took Bazemore to Old Dominion, where he starred for a team seeking to earn recognition against the giants of the college basketball landscape.

Now as an undrafted, free-agent rookie, Bazemore plays for the Warriors, who will never be mistaken for the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA universe. But with the Warriors, Bazemore has found soulsmates, a team full of overlooked players making the most of their first chance to be a star. “You look at our roster. Stephen Curry went to Davidson, a small school,” Bazemore said. “Andrew Bogut, David Lee, Jarrett Jack, Klay Thompson – we’re pretty much a team full of guys who feel like we’ve had to prove ourselves. It drives us every day.”

Yet the Warriors made a surprise playoff appearance this season, playing with camaraderie and passion. And despite being the last player on the bench, Bazemore has made his own impact on the team, creating a verb in the process: Bazemoring.

Bazemore played a ton for Old Dominion, starting for most of his last three seasons with the Monarchs, playing in two NCAA tournaments, and receiving the 2011 Lefty Driesell Award, given to the best defensive player in college basketball.

In the pros, Bazemore has transformed that energy into being the Warriors’ most vocal supporter. In his customary spot on the end of the bench, he is the first player on his feet when Golden State makes a spectacular play – and there were many this past season.

“What with the players we have, there aren’t a lot of minutes for me out there on the court,” he said. “So I want to do whatever I can to help my teammates, whether it’s on the court, or by being the first guy standing on the bench when we need some energy.”

The outgoing energy was noticed by teammates, fans and the media, and the Internet meme – Bazemoring – was born. Fans mimic Bazemore’s signature celebratory pose – knees bent, one arm extended skyward – and post Internet pictures from all around the world. The Twitter hashtag #bazemoring features thousands of tweets and pictures, even a bazemoring cartoon Kent Bazemore.

Of course, Bazemore earned his blue and gold Warriors uniform by being more than a team mascot. He’s earned the respect of his teammates and head coach Mark Jackson, making the most of his four minutes per game on the court, as a shooter and aggressive defender. Ultimately, Bazemore wants to be remembered for his work on the court, rather than next to it. A ranking of NBA players before the season rated Kent Bazemore the 499th-ranked player, out of 500, in the league. It was a motivating moment.

“I’m wearing that number 499 on my shoes. I’m all about proving people wrong,” Bazemore said.

Despite his college achievements, Bazemore recognizes he was fortunate to even receive this opportunity. His college career ended in an inauspicious fashion with legal complications related to a drunk driving conviction.

A year later, Bazemore is grateful every day, and wants to do as much as he can to give back. Once he signed a contract with apparel maker Under Armour, Bazemore and the company donated practice uniforms, shoes, bags and other equipment to underdog Bertie High.

“We’d come up to play in Virginia, and see schools like (Portsmouth’s I.C.) Norcom and all the players would have matching uniforms, matching bags,” Bazemore said. “I want (Bertie players) to feel like they’re stars, too.”

If he’s able to continue his pro career, Bazemore said he looks forward to doing much more for his high school and college. He also, whenever he can, reminds everyone that good players can come from anywhere, even Bertie High and Old Dominion.

“It’s definitely a message I want to send to a lot of players. It doesn’t matter if you’re from North Carolina like (fellow rookie teammate) Harrison Barnes, or Old Dominion, or a Division III school. You just have to go out and outwork the next guy.”

A proud Old Dominion family knows what Kent Bazemore can do, and they’ll be proudly bazemoring right along with him.
When Jeff Jones was a little boy, he used to beg his father to let him tag along on road trips. Back then, Bob Jones was head coach of Kentucky Wesleyan College, a small-school powerhouse that won the 1973 Division II national championship one year before Old Dominion University accomplished the same.

Bob Jones made a habit of traipsing from one side of the Bluegrass State to the other, searching for talent and scouting opponents. If it wasn’t a school night and the trip wasn’t too daunting, he’d take his son with him.

The way Bob Jones tells it, it wasn’t babysitting. To Bob Jones, Jeff was an extra set of eyes, evaluating all that was in front of him.

“He wasn’t like other 10-year-olds,” Bob Jones said. “We’d come out of the gym after watching a game and he’d be asking me questions about what we’d just seen. He was always quizzing me about the best way to slip a screen, when a player should slide below a pick on a pick and roll, when a player should shade his man to his dominant hand. And when he shouldn’t.

“And he was a gym rat at my teams’ practices. He’d go to practice and he wouldn’t be playing hide-and-seek behind the bleachers like other 10-year-olds. He’d be waiting patiently for it to end so he could get out on the court and work on a move or a shot with one of my players.”

Ask Bob Jones about his son’s relationship to basketball and he’ll tell you nothing has surprised him about the coach who is a coach’s son.

But ask Bob Jones about his son being named head coach at Old Dominion University this year and you’ll get a very different response.

“I was a little bit shocked,” he said. “I thought Jeff had settled in at American University and was there for the long run.”

There was more than enough shock to go around in early April when Jeff Jones emerged as Old Dominion’s men’s basketball coach, replacing Blaine Taylor who was dismissed near the end of last season. It was a rough campaign for ODU, one in which the Monarchs were told they couldn’t participate in the Colonial Athletic Association tournament, and then went on to a 5-25 record. Taylor departed in early February with the squad sitting at 2-20 and riding a 10-game losing streak.

A few years of less-than-stellar recruiting had left the Monarchs young and lacking in quality big men. Jones, the one-time wiz kid coach at Virginia who before that was the assist man for legendary Cavalier Ralph Sampson, is left picking up the pieces of a program that had gone to some type of post-season tournament for eight consecutive years and had averaged more than 24 wins a year prior to the implosion year.

And yet, Jones doesn’t see a wasteland. He sees a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make something fabulous happen.

After 13 years of coaching in a lower-tier Division I conference – The Patriot League – in a city dominated by pro sports – the Nationals, Redskins, Capitals and Wizards – Jones has come to a place where Old Dominion is more often than not the most important ticket in town.

He has arrived to coach a team that plays in the modern, 8,424-seat Ted Constant Convocation Center, and at a school that’s bumped up its profile by leaving the CAA and joining Conference USA.

“Who are we? What is Old Dominion basketball about?” Jones asked just days after unpacking and moving into the men’s basketball offices. “We need to find our niche and I’d like to think we have a lot to sell here.

“It takes about two seconds here to see the resources are in place to be successful. The community support is terrific. The facilities are top-notch. There’s an abundance of talent in the region. Our job is to tap into that and get players who fit.”

Quite simply, Jones knows a little bit about winning. As a coach, he has walked off courts with the score in his favor 358 times. His head coaching career began at Virginia, his alma mater, where he coached for eight seasons, leading the Cavaliers to the Elite Eight in 1995 and taking Virginia to the NCAA Tournament five times in eight years. But the bubble burst in 1998 and Jones was dismissed after the Cavaliers finished 11-19.

Jones resurfaced at American two years later and retooled that program, leading the Eagles to 20-win seasons in four of their last six campaigns and taking the team to the NCAA Tournament in 2008 and 2009.

Still, American is a tough sell in basketball. The school plays in the shadows of Georgetown and Maryland, programs that have won national titles, and George Mason, the Cinderella story of the 2006 tournament when the Patriots reached the Final Four.

ODU, meanwhile, is in nobody’s shadow in the southeastern quadrant of the state. The Monarchs are a team that fills the Ted when hot, and still half-fills it when they’re cold. For

ODU Welcomes Jeff Jones
New Basketball Coach Is a Student of the Game and a Proven Winner

BY RICH RADFORD
Jones, the job is to make ODU a hot ticket once again.

“The reality is we need to build things back up,” Jones said. “But I believe if we can add a few key characters to the mix, we can make a move back to where we want to be. I’m very optimistic.”

Making a move is going to take a lot of work, and some ODU basketball fans might have been surprised during the annual Big Blue BBQ on April 20 when Jones was there briefly, then gone, off to Pittsburgh to mine talent at an AAU boys basketball tournament. Jones figures that’s what the fans want anyway: A coach willing to grind it out to land a recruit.

Jones looks at what ODU has, where it is on the landscape, the conference into which ODU is about to dive, and he believes the program could become the equal to Butler, Wichita State, George Mason and VCU, programs that have made it to the Final Four without membership in one of the power conferences.

“The perceived gap is closing,” Jones said. “Where there once seemed to be more of a divide, the so-called mid-majors are having a huge impact on the college basketball scene.”

Monarch faithful shouldn’t be surprised if they see Jones’ former players from time to time. When Mike Brennan was an assistant coach at American, it initially caught him off guard to see guys who had played for Jones at Virginia show up at American University.

“It was common to see Junior Burroughs or Cory Alexander or Norman Nolan show up at our gym and in our office,” said Brennan, now an assistant at Georgetown University. “Jeff builds lasting relationships with his players because he cares about them. They come back and root for him, no matter where he is, and I think that says a lot about the impact he had on them and their respect for him.”

When Jones approached the microphone in early April to be introduced as ODU’s new coach, he looked out into the audience of about 800 and saw two players from his previous stops: Bryant Stith, who starred at Virginia and led the Cavaliers to the 1992 NIT championship, and Brian Gilmore, who played for Jones at American and was a huge part of the Eagles’ first-ever Patriot League title.

“To me, one of the most important aspects of this job is providing the student-athletes with a rewarding experience, something they will look back on fondly,” Jones said.

“You can’t fool players. You have to find the time to let them know you care and that you have their backs. But developing that kind of relationship and that level of trust ... you can’t just snap your fingers and expect it.”

Jones said he wants to build relationships even with former ODU players, to cultivate what has come before him on Hampton Boulevard. It’s important, for he realizes there is rich tradition here.

Meanwhile, back in Kentucky where Jones grew up, there’s a 73-year-old father who knows his kid will roll up his sleeves and put in the hard day’s work to make ODU the talk of Hampton Roads again. Jeff Jones has been that way ever since his dad reminded him that a road trip from Owensboro, Ky., to Pikeville to see one basketball game was going to be a six-hour trip.

ODU Alumni Association Honors Student-Athletes

The Old Dominion University Alumni Association named ODU All-American quarterback Taylor Heinicke (Atlanta, Ga.) and two-time Conference USA women’s golfer of the week Samantha Morrell (North Kingstown, R.I.) as its Athletes of the Year at the annual athletics honors banquet in April. Seniors Jonathan Plisco (Newport News, Va.) of football and Maeghan Pardy (Ottawa, Canada) of women’s rowing were named the 2013 Jack Wilkins/James Howard Scholar Athletes of the Year at the same event.

Heinicke won the 2012 Walter Payton Award as the best player in the national Football Championship Subdivision. He led the nation in passing yardage, passing yards per game, completions, passing touchdowns and total touchdowns, among other superlatives.

Morrell was named Conference USA Women’s Golfer of the Week twice this spring and finished 10th in the C-USA Championships, just five strokes behind the winner. She is a two-time All-CAA selection.

The Jack Wilkins/James Howard Scholar Athletes of the Year are presented to the male and female senior athletes with the highest cumulative grade point average. Both Howard and Wilkins were instrumental in the formation of the ODU Intercollegiate Foundation, now the Old Dominion Athletic Foundation.

Outstanding both on the field and in the classroom, punter Jonathan Plisco graduated as the FCS all-time leader in career punting, averaging 45.1 yards a boot. Named All-America 12 times and a two-time CAA-Academic All-Conference honoree, he graduated in December with a 3.55 GPA in finance.

Maeghan Pardy is a three-year Lady Monarch captain for a rowing team that has never lost a home meet. She earned CAA All-Conference honors in 2012 and was the rowing team’s MVP the last two seasons. A three-time LEAD Award winner, she has set personal records at each individual testing distance and carries a 4.0 GPA in psychology. That’s 12 hours round-trip. The 10-year-old kid had just one question back then and it’s the same question today: When do we get going?
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A Year in Review

Don’t miss out on all of the wonderful opportunities to gather with fellow Monarchs offered by the ODU Alumni Association.

- Golf Tournament
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- Orchid Conservatory Tour
- Tides Game
- Monarch5K

“J hope that you will help me write this new chapter by donating to The Dominion Fund today!”

I chose ODU because many of my friends had attended and I was excited about its student life. I remember the first football game I attended and how I really felt I was part of the Old Dominion community. I am proud to be a Monarch because we are a growing community with a mix of nationalities, cultures and life experiences. Students, like me, have the honor of writing a very important chapter in ODU history as the campus moves toward a more residential community.

Joshua Cary
College of Arts & Letters 2014
History and African American Studies

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International Photo Contest Winner

“Beach Sunrise,” taken in Queensland, Australia, by Scott Tazbin, a student studying marketing at ODU, is one of the winners of the first International Photography Competition sponsored by the ODU Office of International Programs. Winning images were shot from South Africa’s Cape of Good Hope to the Great Wall in China, from Australia to Peru.

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

Send submissions to jasper@odu.edu
Shannon Hair and his mother were abandoned by his father when he was just a toddler. It was his mother’s attitude that they could make it out of public housing by sheer determination and hard work. Shannon said, “My life could have ended up very differently. I should have been a statistic.”

After graduating in 1996 from George Washington High School, Shannon began thinking about college. Not wanting to leave his family, his high school sweetheart, or his community, he enrolled in Danville Community College’s (DCC) two-year program, majoring in general engineering and drafting. He graduated in 1998, but it wasn’t easy. Soon after he began, he learned that the program was going to end. Shannon fought for it, first by enlisting his mother’s help and then talking to the dean of Engineering & Business. When that failed, he went to the top - to President Carlyle Ramsey. That discussion led to a friendship between the two men that has lasted more than two decades. And the program remains to this day!

While still at DCC, Shannon began campaigning for a job at Dewberry Inc., a large engineering firm in the Danville area. Eight months of relentless calls paid off when he was hired as a temporary replacement for a CADD technician being deployed. That five-month job turned into a 12-year career, ending with him as manager of economic development. Meanwhile, he and Heather married, and Shannon decided to go back to school. He chose ODU’s Teletechnet Center.

“Thanks to ODU, I was the first member of my family to graduate with a four-year degree. The only time I actually put my feet on the ODU campus was when I graduated. Heather, pregnant with Jackson, our first-born, and other members of my family came to watch me walk across the stage. It was a proud accomplishment.”

While still at Dewberry, Shannon told Dr. Ramsey that one day he would like to return to DCC and run the Educational Foundation. He already had strong relationships with many local civic organizations, having served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce and Danville Family YMCA. “I was thinking that would be a great job when I reached my 40s or 50s,” he said.

In the busy summer of 2010, while welcoming Dawson, their second-born, and preparing Jackson for kindergarten, Shannon, 32, received an all-important phone call from Dr. Ramsey inviting him to meet. When they sat down, Dr. Ramsey said, “The time is now. Your predecessor is leaving.” A dream had come true! In October 2010, Shannon was named director of development at DCC and executive director of the Educational Foundation. He was to lead fundraising activities and manage the college’s first major gifts campaign.

“I was charged with raising $7 million for scholarships and other campus initiatives,” he said. In October 2010, the foundation’s endowment was roughly $3 million, by January 2013, it was well over $6 million, with over 30 newly created scholarships. “Raising $7 million in less than 24 months has been exhausting, but very rewarding,” Shannon said. “I am amazed and humbled at our success. A building, an auditorium and classrooms have all been named. It’s been so much fun, that most times, it doesn’t even feel like work!”

It was at the chancellor’s annual retreat in the summer of 2011, that Shannon attended a planning giving session and learned that he could take out a life insurance policy, make Danville Community College the owner and beneficiary, and get a tax deduction for the premium payment. He and Heather discussed the type of legacy they wanted to leave and decided that, at his death, the policy will endow several funds.

“I felt so proud about what we’d done that I wanted to do something similar for ODU,” Shannon said. ODU is now the beneficiary of a whole life policy on Shannon, which will fund a scholarship in their names, to benefit a Danville or Virginia engineering student to take classes through ODU’s Teletechnet Center.

“We’re doing this to pay it forward,” he said. “Working in the educational arena has increased my passion for these institutions. Heather and I wanted to promote them through a legacy gift.” Shannon added, “If I had to do it all over again, I’d do the same thing. I really didn’t want to leave my community. ODU gave me that opportunity to stay and invest in my surroundings...and it is all paying off now!”

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 by contacting 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
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
2 –7 p.m., Sailapalooza, ODU Sailing Center, Whitehurst Beach — ODU sailors and coaches will offer free sailing lessons and sailboat rides. Donations welcome on behalf of Operation Smile.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1
6 – 8:30 p.m., Planetarium Double Feature, Pretlow Planetarium — Two one-hour programs, each featuring a family-friendly, full-dome movie and a conversation with a faculty member.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
4 – 6 p.m., Tree Trail Tour, Kaplan Orchid Conservatory — See 30 varieties of trees on campus with Grounds Manager Chad Peery ‘98 and Master Gardeners Ed ’74 & Linda ’71, ’79 Bradley.

6 p.m., LGBT Welcome Reception, Night of the Iguana.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3
6 p.m., Alumni Honors Dinner, Sheraton, Waterside — Honoring the 2013 Distinguished Alumni, Honorary Alumni, Alumni Service Award winners and the Class of 1963. Proceeds support Alumni Association programs including the Adam Thoroughgood Scholarship. Tickets must be purchased. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

7 p.m., Homecoming Step Show, Ted Constant Convocation Center — Fraternities and sororities compete for the 2013 Step Show title. Tickets, visit http://orgs.odu.edu/homecoming.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
10:30 a.m., 50th Reunion Art Gallery Tour, Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries — Join Ellin Gordon for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Galleries and hear her stories about their collection.

9 a.m., Homecoming Step Show, Ted Constant Convocation Center — Fraternities and sororities compete for the 2013 Step Show title. Tickets, visit http://orgs.odu.edu/homecoming.

6 p.m., Football, ODU vs. Liberty, Foreman Field at S. B. Ballard Stadium — A very limited number of Alumni Tailgate packages (includes game ticket) are available; visit www.odualumni.org to purchase. Ticket only purchases are not available at this time; check www.odusports.com for more details.

Homecoming Fireworks on Kaufman Mall immediately following the football game.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Open House, Recreation Center.

1 p.m., Women’s Soccer, ODU Soccer Complex — Lady Monarchs host C-USA member UT San Antonio. Ticket prices TBD.

2 p.m., Field Hockey, L.R. Hill Complex — First-year head coach Andrew Griffiths and the Lady Monarchs host Georgetown.

For complete event details visit www.odualumni.org/homecoming. Visit the student Homecoming site at http://orgs.odu.edu/homecoming.