Fall 2012

Monarch

Jim Raper (Editor)

Old Dominion University

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Epicure at Large
TIPS FOR TAILGATERS

Lorraine Eaton ’86 (M.F.A. ’99)
The Ted Constant Convocation Center will be 10 years old in October. The 9,100-seat arena and meeting room complex, seen here at the May 2012 Commencement, will celebrate the anniversary with a month of special events, including those scheduled as part of ODU’s Homecoming Weekend Oct. 12-14. On Oct. 20 there will be a gala birthday party for the venue, with activities for the entire family. The $40 million convocation center, operated by Global Spectrum, anchors a 75-acre University Village development of housing, businesses, a research park and arts facilities. The Ted is named for Theodore F. “Ted” Constant of Virginia Beach, whose gift of $5 million to the university helped make construction of the center possible. See www.constantcenter.com for more information about the anniversary celebration.

PHOTO BY RONALD ATKINSON
From the Editor

Happy birthday, Ted! It seems like only yesterday that our Ted Constant Convocation Center opened. But, the truth is, it’s been with us for 10 years. Elsewhere in this magazine you will find information about the celebration throughout October of The Ted’s 10th anniversary. We should all take the time to visit the arena during this month, and to pay homage to the iconic role that it has served in ODU redevelopment.

About the time the gleaming Ted opened, I said to my wife something like, “The ODU campus is suddenly majestic, a splendid sight for folks traveling on Hampton Boulevard.” The convocation center made everything around it look snazzier, but, of course, the snazzy redo was just beginning.

In the past 10 years, the University Village – with its residential units, restaurants, arts venues and research/offices park – has sprung up just to the east of The Ted. Across the street, the Batten Arts and Letters Building has been renovated, with a façade that mimics the most memorable parts of the Ted’s architecture. Just to the north there is a completely renovated Health Sciences Building, which also contains the University Theatre, with its tasteful marquee along the boulevard. Back across Hampton Boulevard, the recently rededicated Dragas Hall (formerly Hughes Hall) has been redone with a welcoming “front door to campus” atrium that fits perfectly with the architectural scheme that The Ted inspired.

Across 49th Street is the old Foreman Field that is now the Ainslie Sports Complex with S. B. Ballard Stadium. If any structural addition to the campus can rival The Ted in impact it would be this beautiful complex, where ODU’s precocious team has packed seats since the university started its modern era of intercollegiate football in 2009. (The phenomenally popular tailgate partying that has accompanied our return to football is the subject of a story in this issue.)

There are many more campus building projects that have been completed since The Ted opened, and all of them add to the “Have you seen us lately?” boast of the ODU community.

Speaking of boasting, Monarch Magazine was launched only last year, and we’ve already gotten an award. Judges in the 2012 Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District III competition gave our first two issues a Special Merit Award in the magazine improvement category.

—Jim Raper
An Epicurean Takes on Tailgating
Judging the drinks and dishes of ODU tailgaters
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Lorraine Eaton studied at ODU to become a communicator, but she never dreamed it would lead to her staff epicure position at The Virginian-Pilot.

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More Demonstrations
I enjoyed Steve Daniel’s “Then & Now: Vigils, Demonstrations and the Learning Process,” which recapped many of the student protests from the Vietnam War era to the present (Monarch, Spring 2012). My one quirk with the article is that it jumped from the late 1970s to the present as if nothing of interest occurred in the intervening three decades. In 1989, when Gov. L. Douglas Wilder announced severe cuts in funding for higher education, I helped organize a rally to protest those cuts. About 200 people participated, and the rally was covered by The Virginian-Pilot and the local broadcast news stations. About a year later, at the beginning of the Gulf War, the ODU Democratic Socialists announced an anti-war rally. The College Republicans responded by announcing a pro-troops counter-rally (which I also helped organize). When the day arrived, only seven or eight people showed up for the Democratic-Socialists’ anti-war rally, while approximately 200 people showed up for our pro-troops rally. Once again, the event was covered by The Virginian-Pilot and local news stations. I thank Mr. Daniel for his interesting and informative article. It is gratifying to know that our actions in 1989 and 1990 continued a tradition of principled, creative and peaceful protests at ODU.

Ken Falkenstein '91
Virginia Beach

‘Boyhood in Tunisia’
I have just finished reading Mourad Larussi’s autobiographic piece, “Boyhood in Tunisia” (Monarch, Spring 2012), and I have to say I enjoyed it immensely. While I loved the details he includes, the capturing of the innocence and wonder of being a small boy in a big world is the undercurrent that I enjoyed the most. Good luck to him with his writing, and I hope to see other contributions from him.

Mark Havey
ODU professor of physics and Eminent Scholar

Remembering Bob Fodrey
I am writing this in regards to the In Remembrance article about my father, Robert L. “Bob” Fodrey Sr., that appeared in the Monarch Fall 2011 issue.

Your kind words and expressions of my father’s accomplishments were sincerely and deeply appreciated. The accuracy and attention to detail are a source of pride in our family and once again, I want to say, Thank You.

Patricia Fodrey Rathbun ’66
Virginia Beach

Celebrating How Far We’ve Come
Having twice graduated from Old Dominion University, I have watched it grow from its association with the College of William and Mary, covering a few small blocks of real estate, to the now–sprawling, constantly excelling school with a worldwide reputation for research and learning. Through these years, faculty, administration and students have joined forces to enhance academics and athletics in both large and small ways, all contributing to its rational growth and learning with meaning. Every time I travel down Hampton Boulevard, I am reminded of the early foundation as I witness a purposeful ever–expanding university. I am indeed a proud Monarch for my association with this outstanding institution of higher education.

Charles W. Hoofnagle ’62 (M.S.E. ’70)
Portsmouth

Give Us More about ‘Division’ Days
First, I do enjoy reading the Monarch and keeping up with what is happening at ODU. The format is super. I do have one concern, or rather a disappointment, and that is the whole body of students prior to the ’70s seems to be nonexistent, or at least ignored except in the In Memoriam/In Remembrance columns. I am a graduate from the Norfolk Division of William & Mary. As I read the latest issue of Monarch, I was reminded of a time at a football game at the Citadel when I passed a group from W&M tailgating in the parking lot. We had a bit of conversation until I was asked from where I had graduated and I replied, “W&M in Norfolk.” The response was immediate, “Oh, the Division…”, and they turned away. I hope the attitude of ODU toward its predecessor school is unlike what I experienced at the Citadel.

Gerald W. Musselman ’59
Summerville, S.C.

To send a letter to the editor, you may contact us via email, jraper@odu.edu; fax, 757-683-5503; or by regular mail, Editor, Monarch magazine, 100 Koch Hall, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529.

You may reach us by phone at:
Alumni Association and Alumni Relations Office: 757-683-3097 or 888-ODU-3435
Monarch magazine: 757-683-5985
The yellow light was invented in 1920.

Almost one hundred years later, 85% of drivers have no idea what to do when they see one.

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The road is now an intelligent place.
The Bronze Lion Turns 15
An Artistic Triumph, and It’s Giving Monarch Nation a Ton of Memories

BY STEVE DANIEL

What may well prove to be Old Dominion University’s most enduring symbol turns 15 this fall.

The bronze Monarch lion statue, which has stood guard over Kaufman Mall from its fountain pedestal near Webb Center since 1997, has indeed become a popular landmark for the university community as well as prospective students and other campus visitors.

It has served as the backdrop for thousands of photos through the years – an especially popular one at graduation time – and it has graced the pages of numerous university publications and websites. It has even become ingrained in the campus culture as the focal point of a tradition among the more adventurous students, who wouldn’t consider their ODU career complete without “riding the lion.”

Usually under the cover of darkness, so as not to attract attention, students wade through the water, climb onto the platform and then hoist themselves and each other onto the lion’s back for this unsanctioned Monarch Nation right of passage.

The larger-than-life-size statue was created by ODU graduate Kevin Gallup ’85, who at the time was an adjunct faculty member in the art department, where he taught bronze casting and clay sculpture. Weighing in at close to 2,000 pounds and standing 6 feet high, the prowling feline presents a ferocious look. Gallup said he was given a considerable degree of artistic freedom in creating the sculpture, but was advised that the lion should convey strength and have an aggressive appearance.

“The pose,” he said, “is basically a stalking, on the prowl kind of look.”
Gallup at work on the lion sculpture.

To help bring his design from the computerized drawing board to three-dimensional form, Gallup assembled a team that included current and prospective students, as well as fellow alumn Nora White ’87. Given the go-ahead on the project around the first of August, they completed the work — a complex process that required more than 40 molds — in record time, working night and day for over two months. (You can watch a video of the process, from start to finish, on YouTube — “New Soul Old Lion.”)

The statue, which had to be lowered by a crane onto its base, was unveiled Oct. 17, 1997, to great ovation as a ceremonial prelude to the university’s annual Founders’ Day luncheon.

Giving further regal bearing to ODU’s lion king are jets of water that arc out from the base of its concrete platform “throne,” creating a crown-like effect.

David Harnage, currently the university’s COO, commissioned the sculpture back when he was ODU’s vice president for administration and finance. At the time, he called the statue “a special work of art … and a wonderful symbol for the university.”

Harnage said the idea for a lion statue evolved from discussions within ODU’s Office of Facilities Management about how to make improvements to the previous, more nondescript fountain, which was starting to show its age. He doesn’t remember who actually came up with the idea of a lion, but noted, “Everybody felt the university needed a visual icon.”

For Gallup, the first step in the process was to read everything he could about lions and to study pictures of them. “You have to know the bone structure and the muscle structure,” he explained. “That’s how you sculpt. You first place all the ‘bones’ correctly, and then you attach, essentially, the muscles to those bones.” He started with the creation of a computerized, three-dimensional image, and then welded pieces of sheet metal to form a backbone and armature. The “skeleton” was sprayed with multiple layers of urethane insulation foam, and the foam was then ground down and shaped in preparation for the application of a ton of clay. From there, 41 molds were cast and welded together.

Gallup, who later was hired to develop the prototype for the Norfolk mermaid and who currently is the president of Studio 3D, LLC, in Norfolk, said he is delighted that the ODU lion has been received so favorably through the years. “I think, actually, that is the coolest thing I’ve done,” said Gallup, who also created three life-size bronze figures for the Chesapeake Public Library and the 55-foot-tall gorilla at Ocean Breeze Park.

You won’t get any arguments from ODU students. Nicole Kiger, director of student activities and leadership at ODU, doesn’t know when the notion of riding the lion actually began, but she said it had been going on before she started working at the university 11 years ago. “It has really ratcheted up in the past five years,” said Kiger, who estimates that up to 70 percent of the seniors take part in the activity. “As far as traditions at ODU, this ranks right at the top, behind jumping on the university seal on Kaufman Mall during the commencement procession.”

While riding the lion remains a popular tradition among students, the university administration recently expressed concern about the activity, in light of the injuries that occur each year to students who fall off the statue. Those unfortunate enough to land on the pointed water jet nozzles often have a trip to a local hospital to add to their college memories. Because of concerns about safety and liability, the university administration is looking into a number of options, from ways to make the fountain less hazardous, to the possibility of making the actual riding of the lion a supervised, sanctioned activity at a certain time during the school year.

Of course, riding the lion at night, as an unsupervised rite of passage, is no doubt more appealing to many students. In any event, it will be interesting to see what ultimately happens to this now time-honored tradition.

And what does the creator of the statue think of the activity? “I think it’s great. I heartily endorse it … unofficially,” Gallup said with a laugh.

“You can’t hurt the thing, right? The only thing I wouldn’t like to see is people painting it or something. But I think it’s good to have an outlet for students to do funky stuff, as long as it’s harmless fun and it doesn’t damage anything.”

Gallup recalls a few years ago when some campus police officers told him about the night they got a call after some girls had gotten up on the lion but couldn’t get down. “It’s a lot easier to climb up than to get down, I can tell you that,” he said.

By and large, ODU students revere the statue as the symbol of their school. Other than climbing on the lion’s back, cases of defacement have been virtually nonexistent, other than the occasional addition of detergent to the shallow pool of water – water that the Office of Student Activities and Leadership dyes blue for Homecoming.

“The students respect the lion (and the fountain), and they don’t want to do anything to diminish its importance,” Kiger said.

“When the weather is nice, that’s the place to be.”

The ODU lion has indeed become an endearing, high-profile symbol of the Monarch Nation culture. When tradition and legacy such as this intersect, it can only mean that Old Dominion has come of age. May ODU’s lion king continue to welcome current and future students from its Kaufman Mall throne for years to come.
The north end of ODU’s University Village has a definite artsy cachet to it now, and that distinction is going to become more apparent over the next few years.

Since 2007, when the Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries opened at 45th Street and Monarch Way, the university has pursued an “Arts in the Village” concept for the northernmost blocks of University Village. The second structure in the plan, the Goode Theatre at 46th Street and Monarch Way, was dedicated in the spring.
Also earlier this year, ODU entered the design stage on a new arts department facility, which is slated for the site across Monarch Way from the Goode Theatre. The 39,000-square-foot main building of the two-structure complex will become home to the Jean Outland Chrysler Library, which will be moving there from Norfolk’s Chrysler Museum of Art.

A “red carpet” reception in April marked the formal opening of the Goode Theatre, which is named in honor of Susan and David Goode and their daughters, Christina and Martha. The 25,000-square-foot, 185-seat contemporary facility provides professional-grade performance and rehearsal space for the communication and theatre arts department.

As noted in a resolution of the ODU Board of Visitors, Susan and David Goode have been and continue to be generous supporters and leaders in numerous local, state and national boards for corporations, colleges and universities, the arts, the environment and human services. Their philanthropy includes lead support for the new ODU theatre and numerous other contributions to the university, as well as overwhelming support to countless community organizations. David Goode is the former chief executive officer of Norfolk Southern Corp.

According to Director of Theatre Katherine Hammond, the opening of the Goode Theatre increases the training possibilities for Old Dominion students by offering them the most up-to-date technology with which to practice their craft. It allows them to envision a theatrical experience that is as flexible as the space, she says, and it provides the first true home for ODU’s nascent film program.

The $9.5 million, 22,050-square-foot theatre project was designed by Boora Architects and Moseley Architects and constructed by WM. Jordan Co. Theatre Projects, which worked on the restoration of the Savoy Theatre in London, was a consulting designer.

“The state-of-the-art Goode Theatre strengthens our program and allows us to expand our annual theatrical offerings,” said College of Arts and Letters Dean Charles Wilson. “But it also represents the next step in what will become a fantastic asset for the entire region – the ODU Arts District.”

The arts department complex that will be located across the street from the theatre is designed to bring together fine, studio and theatre arts to promote collaboration and creativity. Its offices, classrooms and studios will serve art history, graphic design, fibers, painting and drawing.

In addition to the Jean Outland Chrysler Library, the main arts department building will house the Elise N. Hofheimer Art Library, which is now in ODU’s Dehn Center for the Performing Arts.

The Jean Outland Chrysler Library has a collection of more than 112,000 volumes, many of them rare or unique, making it one of the most significant art li-
‘Harnage 2.0’
running smoothly

After a year back at Old Dominion, having been away for 11 years, David Harnage has settled comfortably into his new role as the university’s chief operating officer. That’s not to say that his job is free from worry; far from it. Among his many major responsibilities are oversight of campus safety operations and a leadership role for all matters outside the academic and research arenas when the president is not on campus. But for reasons he finds it hard to put into words, there’s less stress this time around.

Maybe that comes from his considerable experience of having been on the front lines before at ODU (from 1985 to 2000), starting out as associate vice president for computing and communications services and later moving up to vice president for administration and finance, along with his succeeding five years of combined high-level administrative roles at Longwood and Towson universities. In any event, Harnage 2.0 is operating smoothly so far, and he is grateful for having the opportunity to once again serve an institution he came to love during his first tour of duty.

“Having been away from the campus for 11 years, I wasn’t sure what to expect. All organizations have things they need to work on, but this institution has done and continues to do some really important things. This is a very dynamic institution on many levels, and it’s exciting to see all that is happening here.

“The leadership style I see, from having a president who relies on his vice presidents to help examine the university’s needs and chart its course, is very positive.”

For six years before he returned to ODU, Harnage was the executive director of higher education and vice president at Moseley Architects in Virginia Beach, and he said he hadn’t considered returning to the university arena. But now that he’s here, he’s glad he did.

“There’s not been a single incident or anything I’ve learned since coming back that’s made me question my decision to return to Old Dominion, not a single one.”

He said there were only two reasons he came back. “One is John Broderick, a person I respect highly, asked me would I do it, and secondly, because I truly would not have had much of the success I’ve enjoyed in my life without Old Dominion.”

One of his first duties as COO was to recruit a new chief for the ODU Police Department. That process came to a successful conclusion last winter with the hiring of Rhonda Harris from Rutgers University. “Having a safe campus is of fundamental importance. There is no doubt that we will pay a lot of attention to campus safety and all the support services that go along with that. I’ve had campus safety report to me at three different institutions, and the one really important thing I’ve learned is that there has to be a very skilled, experienced leader from the campus police community that is supporting and advising the university, and I think we have accomplished that with the hiring of Chief Harris.

“There was a great group of people throughout the campus that kept this place running when I was here before, and that still holds true today,” he said.

“I was fortunate enough during the last 11 years to work at two different institutions in senior leadership positions. Hopefully, during round two at ODU, I can find a way to contribute the experience I gained at those schools to this university in a meaningful way.

“The bottom line is I started out to be this computer guy. It’s not often that computer folks ever get an opportunity to get out of their niche. Old Dominion gave me that chance, and I can never repay it. I know that will probably sound hokey to a lot of people, but to me and my value system, that means a lot. So that’s really why I’m here.

“It’s no longer about my career. At my age now, it’s all about this university. If I can look back after this and feel like I’ve made a positive contribution to Old Dominion, then I’ll be good.”

-Steve Daniel

BUT YACO, THE OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIAN AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST, DID NOT EXPECT THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE TRAVELING EXHIBIT WOULD HAVE A HEALING EFFECT ON A NUMBER OF THE PARTICIPANTS. AND SHE WAS CERTAINLY TAKEN BY SURPRISE WHEN A WOMAN BY THE NAME OF PAULA MARTIN SMITH SHOWED UP FOR A DOVE EVENT IN LYNCHBURG ON JUNE 2.

ITTurns out that Smith was, literally, the face of the exhibit. As she would explain to Yaco, it was a photograph of her as a 10-year-old that DOVE used on its promotional materials and portable display for the “School Desegregation: Learn, Preserve, Empower” initiative. The picture was among a selection of photos that NAACP Virginia lent for use in the exhibit.

HEARING Smith’s story and collecting the oral histories of 66 other Virginians was a rewarding experience, Yaco said. “Public records and newspaper accounts tell part of this tale. But still missing are the stories told by those affected by integration,” said Yaco, who founded DOVE in 2008 and serves as its co-chair.

“Going into communities where I’m an outsider, and asking people who have very painful memories to share their experiences of desegregation, I was struck by the generosity and courage of these people to tell their stories,” Yaco added. “For many people, it was the first time they had talked about it.”

At stops in Melfa on the Eastern Shore, Hampton, Farmville, Richmond, Alexandria and Lynchburg, people came to view the exhibit, talk to others with similar experiences and add their own stories to the public record. Many ended up staying the whole day.

And then there was the story of Smith.

“As it turned out, I couldn’t have picked a better poster child for the exhibit,” Yaco said. “The first year she taught in public schools was the first year that Pittsylvania County (Va.) integrated.”

When Yaco selected Smith’s photo, she had no idea who the girl in the picture was or why it had been taken. The picture, as she would later learn, was taken for an NAACP function.

In her oral history, Smith, now retired and in her mid-60s, talked about growing up in Danville. Her father was the owner of the first black-owned, certified bank in Virginia, but even though she was from a prosperous family, she still experienced separate restrooms for the races and other forms of discrimination.

Yaco was delighted when Smith asked if the exhibit could also come to Danville. The answer, of course, was yes, and AARP plans to host a DOVE event there in the coming months. ODU Libraries will sponsor the DOVE exhibit early next year.

Yaco noted that the project is interested in collecting oral histories from anyone who experienced school desegregation in Virginia, for its beginnings in the mid-1950s through the 1980s.
Jordann Kokoski ’12 Finds a Role Model in ‘Dr. Mary’

Their first meeting at the ODU Alumni Awards Dinner in 2011 was surely predestined. Dr. Mary Maniscalco-Theberge ’78 had been the first female battalion commander for Army ROTC while she was at ODU and then had gone on to become the first female chief of surgery at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Jordann Kokoski ’12 held that same battalion commander post when she met “Dr. Mary,” and Jordann’s goal – she set it at age 16 – is to become a physician.

The two were to strike up a friendship, with Maniscalco-Theberge offering to serve as a mentor during Jordann’s senior year.

Maniscalco-Theberge, who retired from the Army as a colonel, is now deputy medical inspector, professional services, The Office of Medical Inspector, Veterans Health Administration in Washington, D.C. She is also attending breast surgeon at Walter Reed.

Lt. Cndr. Brian Kerns, the professor of military science who directs the Army ROTC program at ODU, couldn’t have been happier that the two met. “As an armor officer, I do not have the expertise required to help Cadet Kokoski become a successful Army doctor. I am extremely grateful that someone with the experience and knowledge of Dr. Mary is mentoring Cadet Kokoski so she can reach her full potential.”

And Kokoski’s potential, according to Kerns, is remarkably high. “She is a true scholar, athlete and leader who will make a great Army officer and is an example of ODU’s finest.”

Monarch magazine caught up with Kokoski just after she graduated with a double major in biology and mathematics and a minor in military science. At that time, she was preparing to apply to medical schools.

Q: What influenced your decision to come to ODU?

A: I grew up in an Air Force family. My father retired in 2006 from Langley Air Force Base in Hampton. My parents are incredibly supportive of the decisions I have made in school and to join ROTC. I chose ODU because, at 18 years old, I was not quite ready to move out of my house. I wanted somewhere close, where I still had my family for support. That family foundation was, and still is, very important to me. ODU also offered the programs I wanted – pre-med, mathematics, biochemistry and music. It was a complete package and I have not once regretted my decision.

Q: How did your studies progress?

A: ODU is full of exceptional professors who are committed to the success of their students. Several of my professors stand out to me. Douglas Mills, the general biology instructor, was supportive of me from the time I entered the school in fall 2008. As a senior, I still went to his office to ask advice and just to discuss my semester and his. Lee C. Land is another phenomenal instructor. She was my Calculus II instructor and she has continued to keep up with my academic progress. Bala Ramjee was my instructor for a biochemistry seminar. It was through his class and his instruction that I developed an appreciation and a passion for scientific journal analysis, which is very important in medicine. There are so many other professors I would love to mention and to whom I would like to express my gratitude: Sarah Appleton (English); Lesley Greene, Paula Mazzer and Pinky McCoy (chemistry and
biochemistry); Eoin Whelan (biology); and John Adam (mathematics). I apologize for leaving some out.

**Q:** How did you come to join Army ROTC?

**A:** Believe it or not, I did not come to ODU with any intention of joining ROTC. A month before my first semester, my mother and I came to turn in paperwork. It just so happens that the ROTC office is strategically located next to the admissions office. So, my mother and I, both being naturally curious people, went inside just to get some information and ask a few questions. Next thing I knew, I was sitting across from a recruiter – who does his job very well. I considered nursing, briefly. However, I quickly realized that was not my calling and that I really wanted to pursue my desire to be a doctor – a desire I had formed when I was 16.

**Q:** Can you tell us about your mentor, Dr. Mary?

**A:** Dr. Mary and I were introduced in fall 2011 at an alumni awards dinner. When I heard I would be meeting a doctor who had graduated from ODU and had been a member of ROTC, I was ecstatic. Little did I know how much of an impact that doctor would have on me. Dr. Mary is such a lively and giving woman. Her greatest pieces of advice are, “Do the right thing,” and “Surround yourself with excellence.” She is definitely excellent and her mentorship is invaluable to me. I have asked her for advice on several occasions and will continue to do so. In truth, words cannot do justice to her character and to how much she has come to mean to me in such a short time.

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**President Broderick applauds the Presidential Medalists, Benning (left) and Moore.**

Jason Benning and Joshua Moore, two Naval ROTC students at ODU, were each awarded a Presidential Medal by John Broderick, the university’s president, for the heroism they exhibited in rescuing a motorist and her 2-year-old son from an automobile that had crashed and caught on fire on I-264 in Norfolk.

The presentation ceremony was in February, several weeks after the students’ nighttime rescue.

Benning, a Midshipman 1s Class, and Moore, an officer’s candidate, were driving home from evening classes in separate cars when they came upon a single-car crash. The two helped to get the 26-year-old driver from the smoke-filled car and then returned to get her son from the rear seat. The car burst totally into flames less than a minute after the child was pulled free.

“We always stress to our NROTC midshipmen and officer candidates the importance of being men and women of action,” said Capt. Thomas Halley, Hampton Roads NROTC consortium commanding officer. “I am very proud of the exceptional character Benning and Moore possess, and the bravery and selflessness they displayed.”

Both young men are mechanical engineering technology majors in ODU’s Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology.

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**Homearama Charity House To Benefit the Globe at ODU**

The Homearama event in Norfolk this fall sponsored by the Tidewater Builders Association will include a feature that could bring big benefits to the new Global Friendship House planned at Old Dominion University.

A local builder, Strickland Homes, is constructing a Charity House that will be sold as part of the Homearama, which will be in the East Beach community of Norfolk’s Ocean View. Oct. 13-28. Much of the labor and supplies for the Charity House have been donated, and proceeds from the sale will go toward the new Global Friendship House, which has been dubbed the Globe.

Also, there will be a preview party at the Charity House the evening of Oct. 12 featuring international foods and drinks, and proceeds from ticket sales ($45 prior to day of party) will go to the Globe. See www.globalfriendshiphouse.org.

Kathy Hardison ’71, director of the Global Friendship Ventures organization and the ODU Chaplain for Global Student Friendship, said the group owns land on 43rd Street near Hampton Boulevard and has plans for a four-story Globe that would house 72 students. She said the group is $1.5 million short of the $3.5 million needed for the housing project.

“The Homearama event will highlight to the public the fact that 110 nations are represented at ODU” Hardison said.
Who you gonna call if you hear things that go bump in the night? Consider the Old Dominion Ghost Hunters, ODU’s paranormal research society and sanctioned student organization.

These fearless investigators have traveled to dozens of spooky spots, including an old hotel near Charlottesville that once served as a Civil War hospital, and to the battleship USS North Carolina that is now a tourist attraction in Wilmington, N.C. They are poised to assist anyone in the mid-Atlantic region who believes that a structure or environment is haunted.

Last year, a report of their investigation of the battleship North Carolina was broadcast on the national SyFy (formerly Sci-Fi) cable television channel. Newspapers in Virginia have published articles about their work at the Civil War Museum/Exchange Hotel near Charlottesville and the Prentis House in downtown Suffolk. Hundreds of fans follow them on Facebook, YouTube and at the website www.odughosthunters.com.

ODGH has nearly 50 members with a wide range of beliefs about the paranormal, says Alex McGinnis, a junior who is the club’s public relations manager and second-in-command investigator.

“But we all share one main goal, finding out what really happens after life. Our purpose is to conduct paranormal experiments in order to answer questions and to push paranormal science from being a pseudoscience to the next level in scientific research.”

How do they do it?
When they arrive at an investigation site they are nearly as laden with gizmos as the “Ghostbusters” were in the 1984 movie. But theirs are actual scientific instruments, including electro-magnetic field detectors and a Geiger counter. This is because many paranormal investigators believe spirits are bundles of electric energy or radiation. They also carry laser grid projectors, thermometers, digital and analog tape recorders and an array of photographic equipment.

On Halloween Night last year they were at the old Exchange Hotel in the central Virginia village of Gordonsville. This is the hotel that served as a Civil War hospital. “It was one of the craziest nights of paranormal investigating we have experienced in a while,” says McGinnis. “There were a total of eight investigators there and I’m pretty sure each person experienced something, from hearing voices, to seeing unexplained light anomalies. We all have our stories from that night.”

With Alex Motteler, a freshman whose title is investigator-in-training, McGinnis captured a recording of a squeaking door. With Rahat Hossain, a junior and veteran investigator, he turned up an EVP hit, which is a recording of an “electronic voice phenomena.”

“We clearly heard what sounds to be a female voice! Our faces turned white and our jaws dropped. We couldn’t believe what we heard. This voice was captured on our audio,” according to McGinnis.

But, overall, there was a lot about the Exchange Hotel investigation that was inconclusive. The students noticed a flashlight going on and off without anyone touching it, yet the blinking did not correspond to questions called out by the investigators. What they call a “knocking test,” which invites spirits to respond to taps on the wall, turned up nothing. And they got no electro-magnetic field readings at all.

Even the EVP captures of “creaks” and “voices” might not pass muster, McGinnis notes. “Sounds can easily be debunked. So unless they are something totally unexplainable, we have to discard it. But the voices from the EVPs we found are definitely something amazing.”

The ODGH lead investigator is junior Andrew Patchan, who founded the organization in 2009 when he was a freshman. Before he got to ODU he had founded another group called Northern Virginia Ghost Hunters, and in Norfolk he used printed fliers and Facebook to generate interest in the ODGH club.

Two years later, it is one of the busiest college paranormal groups, averaging five to seven investigations a semester. “We investigate all over, ranging from Maryland to North Carolina, including many private residences,” says McGinnis. “These are families that come to us for help because they are experiencing paranormal activity.”
KATHY AND RICHARD VERLANDER WERE NOT ATHLETES themselves, and they had almost no experience with organized sports before a neighbor suggested to them in 1989 that they should sign up their son, Justin, for Little League. The rest, as they say, is history. Justin became a star at Goochland High School in central Virginia, at Old Dominion University, and now with the Detroit Tigers, where he has established himself as arguably the best active pitcher in baseball. In 2011 he won the American League Cy Young Award as well as the league’s Most Valuable Player Award.

Justin’s younger brother, Ben, has taken to the diamond for ODU, as well. He pitched and played outfield during the 2011 and 2012 seasons.

So, how did the parents evolve from sports-challenged to sports-immersed? The answer is in “Rocks Across the Pond: Lessons Learned. Stories Told,” published in June by Dementi Milestone Publishing, a company headed by Wayne Dementi (M.B.A. ’73).

“After more than two decades spent raising two sons who have experienced great success both on and off the field, the term ‘baseball is life’ has become much more than a cliche for the Verlander family,” Kathy and Richard write in the publisher’s announcement of the book. “We have been touched by many life-changing events that we were fortunate to experience, but often unprepared to handle. Looking back, we were often blessed to be surrounded by many people who helped us by providing valuable insight in making decisions and dealing with situations that enabled us to put our boys in the best possible atmosphere to grow and develop their potential—both as athletes and young men. Other times we were just lucky. It wasn’t always clear, that’s for sure.

“This book was written in hopes that other parents raising young athletes can gain something from our experience.”

“Rocks Across the Pond” includes photos from the Verlander family album. Kathy and Richard Verlander were named Little League Parents of the Year in 2009, an award given to parents of Little Leaguers who became major league stars.


Seibles’ seventh collection of poetry traces his life from that of an inquisitive boy in Philadelphia to the present day, as a 56-year-old living in Hampton Roads (he’s been at ODU for 17 years).

“It’s a journey, with memories of when I was a teenager, mixed with my current understanding of the world as I am today,” said Seibles, calling the work “somewhat” autobiographical. “It involves memories, both inward and outward, that we make as we become adults.”

Some of the poems are written from his perspective. Others involve the voice of someone else, but someone who shares his experience in some way. Collectively, “Fast Animal” tells a story about how life changes for all of us.

In the poem “Delores Jeppa,” Seibles describes high school students trying to find their place in the world:

“we had no idea where we were,
how much history had come before us –
how much cruelty, how much more dying was on the way
for me and Terry, it was a time when everything said
maybe, and maybe being blinded
by the beauty of a tenth grader
was proof that, for a little while,
we were safe from the teeth
that keep chewing up the world.”

BOOKS

“Rocks Across the Pond: Lessons Learned. Stories Told.” by Kathy and Richard Verlander

Richard and Kathy Verlander

George and Barbara Bush

Little League Parents of the Year Award

“Fast Animal.” By Tim Seibles

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“Key West Story.” By Rick Skwiot (M.F.A. ’02).

The author is a Hemingway devotee, and he won a Hemingway first novel award 15 years ago for “Death in Mexico” (originally titled “Flesh”). He also is co-founder and director of the nonprofit Key West Writers Lab.

So it may come as no surprise that Skwiot’s new novel, set in modern day Key West and Havana, is about a down-on-his-luck writing coach and former bestselling author who is rejuvenated by a man who just may be the reincarnation of the young Ernest Hemingway.

Protagonist Con Martens recovers his writing talent, his integrity and the woman he loves under the influence of “Nick Adams.” While they slosh through Margaritaville adventures, Nick offers “Commmon” a lot of advice, such as, “Better to write as well as you can with no eye on any market or any thought of what the stuff will bring, or even if it can ever be published, than to fall into the money-making trap. When writers make some and increase their standard of living, they are caught. Then they have to write to keep up their establishments, their wives and so on, and they write slop.”

Asked why he portrayed Nick as Hemingway in his prime rather than a gray-bearded Papa Hemingway, Skwiot said, “I sought to capture Hemingway at his best, when he still had fire, ambition and a sense of proportion about himself and his legacy; when he was doing his best work; when he still had his health and all his mental faculties . . . . That’s the sensitive Hemingway I would like to have known.”

“Echoes from the Hallways of Building 466.” By Leo C. Forrest Jr. ’80.

Mechanical engineering graduate Forrest began his career as a civilian military employee for the Weapons Quality Engineering Center at Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown. Building 466, which housed the center, was torn down in 2010, but not before the author had photographed all of the structure’s main rooms and offices and gathered personnel information and employee memories to write this “if walls could talk” book.

The book, from Buck Landing Harbor Publishing, has a foreword written by Harry R. Jordan, who was technical director of the engineering facility for 25 years.

“When My Brother Was an Aztec.” By Natalie Diaz ‘00 (M.F.A. ’07)

A former Lady Monarch basketball player, Diaz has produced a first poetry collection that provides a penetrating and sometimes darkly humorous look into Mojave Indian American life. A sister struggles to help a brother addicted to meth, and an imaginative roster of characters includes Antigone, Houdini, Hutzlopopchil and Jesus.

The author, who played collegiate basketball at ODU for four years and as a freshman was on a team that went to the Final Four, was born and raised on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation in Needles, Calif. After she received her bachelor’s degree, she played professional basketball for four years in Europe and Asia before returning to ODU to earn her master’s.

“Historical Dictionary of Figure Skating.” By James R. Hines ’65.

This is Hines’ third book about figure skating. He began researching and writing about the topic a few years before he retired in 2010 after 35 years as a professor of music at Christopher Newport University. He is currently a CNU professor emeritus.

The book relates the history of the sport through a chronology, an introductory essay, an extensive bibliography, appendices, and more than 800 cross-referenced dictionary entries on hundreds of skaters, past and present, governing bodies, skating disciplines, technical elements, skating styles, and more.

The book is available in hard copy and for Kindle readers from Amazon.com.

Hines, who has been an avid ice skater since the 1950s, was the first music history graduate from Old Dominion, where he studied with the late Charles Vogan.


The author, who runs a company in Alpharetta, Ga., that helps clients find jobs, has written a book for the parents, spouses and friends of job seekers, advising them about how to be supportive and help their job seeker land the right job.

In a review, Deb Buckland, a family psychotherapist and career counselor, wrote: “Excellent ‘how-to’ book for the job seeker and family, with real-life examples along with great reference materials. This book is a tremendous resource for me to give my clients.”

The book is available on Amazon and in Kindle format.


A retired head reference librarian at Kirn Memorial Library in Norfolk, and a resident of the Ghent neighborhood, Parker has compiled an anecdote-filled book about this section of the city, which was developed beginning in the late 19th century.

Originally farmland and broad expanses of marshland, the area north of the original Norfolk was drained and made ready for residential development by a group of investors called the Norfolk Co. Richard Drummond, who owned a fleet of ships, built a house on what is now the Hague, and named it for the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812. The name was appropriated by the full neighborhood.

Parker worked for three decades on this book, which is dedicated to his late wife, Rose Marie Norwood Clark ’64, who was also a librarian at Kirn Memorial. His sources include old newspaper accounts, including obituaries, as well as real property records, family histories and tombstone inscriptions.

The self-published book is available at Prince Books in downtown Norfolk.

“How to Read a Florida Gulf Coast Beach: A Guide to Shadow Dunes, Ghost Forests and Other Telltale Clues from an Ever-Changing Coast.” By Tonya Clayton (Ph.D. ’01).

The author, a freelance science writer and editor, describes Florida’s west coast from the Panhandle’s sugar-sand beaches to the southwestern shell beaches, and reveals how an observer can recognize the beach formations caused by various coastal processes. She scans dunes and beaches to find the sand ripples, tracings and other markings that show the handwork of breezes, waves, animal life and even raindrops and air bubbles.

Clayton’s precision as a scientist and talent as a writer make the book appealing to physical oceanographers and coastal engineers as well as beach-lovers of all backgrounds.
Children in Virginia and other states will get “scaled up” mathematics instruction as a result of a federal grant of $25 million awarded to a project team at Old Dominion University’s Darden College of Education. This is the largest award from the latest round of the U.S. Department of Education’s Investing in Innovation, or i3, grants competition. The ODU proposal, submitted by John Nunnery, executive director of The Center for Educational Partnerships (TCEP) in the Darden College, is for a “scale-up” project designed to improve mathematics achievement and enhance access to challenging mathematics courses for high-need middle school students.

The awards are contingent upon the applicants obtaining matching funds from the private sector equal to at least 5 percent of the grant award. Nunnery said that TCEP has secured $1.25 million in private commitments to meet that obligation. So at least $26.5 million will be available to the program over the next five years.

More than $1 million will be allocated to support math instructional improvements in the three Virginia school divisions that are official partners in the pilot implementation of the ODU project. The project will grow in subsequent years, and Nunnery is hopeful that private matching funds will ensure that many additional Virginia schools will join the initiative. “Private benefactors who want to contribute to improving math education, particularly in high-need urban and rural settings, will get tremendous leverage from their investment,” he said.

ODU’s i3 project, titled “A Technology-facilitated Scale-up of a Proven Model of Mathematics Instruction in High Needs Schools,” focuses on providing students in high-need middle schools with increased access to engaging coursework in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) via scaled-up implementation of a proven cooperative learning model. That model, called STAD-Math, is a multi-tiered approach to professional development that employs school-based math coaching, an online platform and teacher-made videos of their own practices. Nunnery noted that the use of technology would play a key role in providing cost-effective professional development to rural and urban areas.

“Advanced mathematical understanding is required for advanced study in most STEM fields. Middle school has been identified as a critical period for math learning, a time when students must develop the intellectual foundations for advanced study in STEM areas if they are to continue in these fields. At the same time, data show that participation and achievement in STEM subjects falls off in middle school, particularly among under-represented groups.”

The interventions to be implemented via the ODU project are designed to help schools turn this trend around, boost student achievement in STEM subjects, increase access to STEM curricula for all students and increase participation in advanced STEM learning.

Expected outcomes are statistically significant improvements in math achievement among students by the third year of implementation, including closing achievement gaps for students with limited proficiency in English and students with disabilities.

The project is designed to serve 135,000 students in 185 high-need middle schools across the United States over five years.

Said Linda Irwin-DeVitis, dean of the Darden College at ODU: “The i3 grant is a major example of our commitment to improving our region and the Commonwealth—the core of Old Dominion’s mission as a metropolitan research institution. Congratulations to John Nunnery, the faculty in The Center for Educational Partnerships, the school divisions and other partners in this grant. TCEP was chosen for funding from a very competitive group of proposals.”

An interdisciplinary group of ODU faculty members with expertise in mathematics education, instructional design and teacher professional learning will serve as co-principal investigators on the project. They are: Linda Bol, professor of educational foundations and leadership; Gary Morrison, professor of science, technology, mathematics and professional studies; Melva Grant, assistant professor of science, technology, mathematics and professional studies; Pamela Arnold, research associate with TCEP; and Shanan Chappell Moors, research assistant professor with TCEP.

Official partners for the proposed project include Johns Hopkins University, the Success for All Foundation and a number of local educational agencies (LEAs). LEA partners in the project’s pilot group include Norfolk Public Schools, Portsmouth Public Schools, Halifax (Va.) Public Schools, Judson (Texas) Independent School District and Unified School District 428 of Great Bend (Kansas).

“These school partners represent a broad range of high-need LEAs, including a predominantly African-American rural school, a rural school with a substantial population of students with limited English proficiency, five predominantly African-American urban schools and a predominantly Latino urban school,” Nunnery said.
VMASC’S Sokolowski Named President-Elect of International Society

John Sokolowski, executive director of Old Dominion University’s Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC), is the new president-elect of the Society for Modeling and Simulation International (SCS), the world’s premier M&S organization. SCS was founded in 1952, and has as its mission promoting the use of modeling and simulation (M&S) in ever-expanding application areas through education, and providing a forum where the scientific basis for its foundations can be enriched through education and research.

M&S involves the use of models and computer simulation in such arenas as virtual-environment training, the study of complex systems and strategic decision making.

Sokolowski, who will serve as president-elect until June 30, 2013, then spend the next 12 months as the society’s president, said its mission lines up perfectly with what VMASC strives to accomplish. “It’s certainly an honor to be able to serve this group,” he said. “It’s probably the organization that’s been around the longest that has been focused on how modeling and simulation can serve society.”

A California-based organization whose membership includes representatives of industry, government and academia, SCS serves individuals and organizations in more than 150 countries. As part of its mandate, SCS sponsors conferences and publishes one of the world’s leading modeling and simulation journals. Its primary focus, however, is on service. That is why Sokolowski is especially pleased to represent the organization, and VMASC, for the next two years.

“It falls in line with what we’re doing here, looking at modeling and simulation from a multidisciplinary perspective,” Sokolowski said. He added that one of the challenges the M&S discipline faces is that society at large doesn’t know just how important M&S is, in many domains.

Founded in 1997, VMASC is a multidisciplinary research center that emphasizes modeling, simulation and visualization research, development and education. Its mission is to conduct collaborative M&S research and development, provide expertise to government agencies and industry, and to promote ODU, Hampton Roads and Virginia as a center of M&S activities. Annually, the center conducts approximately $10 million in funded research and focuses on these M&S areas: transportation, homeland security and military defense, virtual environments, social sciences, medicine and health care, game-based learning, M&S interoperability and system sciences.

Wary of Ticks? There’s an App for That

Spend a lot of time in the great outdoors? You may want to take along your iPhone. A team of researchers including Daniel Sonenshine, the Old Dominion University professor emeritus and eminent scholar of biological sciences, has developed an iPhone app useful to people who find ticks on themselves or their pets.

TickID is free, and it’s being made available just as the tick season is heating up across the country. The application offers help to users in identifying what species of tick they’re dealing with, and also advice about the proper removal of ticks and the symptoms to look for in case a bite is a particularly bad one.

Sonenshine, an internationally known authority on ticks and tick-borne diseases, worked with researchers at North Carolina State University in developing the app. They included entomologist Mike Roe and bioinformatics expert Stan Martin, as well as students Anirudh Dhammi, William Blankenship and Joshua Cundiff.

In addition to having photos and descriptions of the male and female deer ticks, dog ticks and Lone Star ticks, the app explains which diseases – such as Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis or Rocky Mountain spotted fever – are transmitted by which species.

TickID for iPhones and iPads can be downloaded at the app store by searching “TickID.”
Student Ingenuity and $1,000 Drive Promising Research

BY STEVE DANIEL

When Petros Katsioloudis offered students in his STEM 221 class, Industrial Materials, an opportunity to work on an applied research project in lieu of taking a traditional final exam, Brian Agee didn’t have to think twice about it.

The project involved working together to create from scratch a piece of equipment that ultimately could be used for studying the production of surgical smoke by various electro-surgical instruments during operations, and analyzing the content of the smoke to determine what health risks this may pose to surgeons.

After Katsioloudis challenged his five student volunteers to come up with a methodology for the project, Agee stayed after class and drew a couple of pictures on the board that featured common parts and materials he thought could make the contraption work. “Because we had little money, we had to be creative,” Katsioloudis said. So far the project team has spent only $1,000.

Agee’s ingenuity reflects the considerable real-life experience he brought to the project – 23 years in the Navy, including service as a machinist’s mate, turbine engineer and hovercraft pilot. “I’ve always been mechanical in nature,” said the 49-year-old technical education major.

Katsioloudis, an assistant professor of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and professional studies in ODU’s Darden College of Education, is delighted that students like Agee, as well as the more traditional-age industrial technology, technology education and engineering technology majors who make up his classes, are excited to have the chance to work on real-life problems as part of their university education. And it’s something more students will be able to become involved in following the creation of the Industrial and Scientific Research Center (ISRC) early this year.

A collaboration between the Department of STEM Education and Professional Studies and the ODU Business Gateway, the center was established to offer real-world industrial and scientific research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.

Katsioloudis is director of the new center, which will continue to conduct research on two projects started in his classes in partnership with EVMS assistant professor and surgeon Dr. Kal Sakhel, who will serve as medical consultant to the ISRC.

“The ISRC is an example of the synergy we need with its emphasis on solving real problems through strategic partnerships,” said Linda Irvin-DeVitis, dean of the Darden College. “Dr. Katsioloudis’ work to involve students in research on
important technical questions will improve students’ skills through applied research that may also have commercial potential. It is a win-win-win.”

After completing the Katsioloudis class in which the surgical smoke project was initially proposed, Agee took a second class with him the following spring so that he could continue to work on it.

The end result was the creation of a four-liter-volume Plexiglas box equipped with a system that allows the insertion of pressurized carbon dioxide – to represent what is injected during surgery. (Four liters is approximately the size of an adult’s abdominal cavity.) A controlled temperature environment can be maintained in the box, which also has a gel port for inserting different types of surgical tools.

Agee’s contribution to the device not only involved developing a system for delivering the carbon dioxide gas into the box, but also a way to meter it and store it. Using a paintball gun CO2 bottle purchased at Sports Authority, he utilized an air conditioning gauge set to regulate the CO2, machined a bulkhead fitting out of brass using a lathe in an ODU lab, and then soldered on a Schrader valve at his home.

Inside the box, which measures approximately 12 inches by 8 inches, is a metal clamp for holding a tissue sample. Three high-speed cameras videotape the smoke that’s created when an inserted surgical instrument makes an incision in the sample, which, together with the matrices, help record and measure the amount of smoke inside the box.

Katsioloudis and Sakhel have tested the surgical instruments in a clean room at EVMS, using a small piece of chicken as the tissue sample.

The ODU researcher said that once these phase one experiments are completed, he and Sakhel will have data showing said, should be of interest to surgeons because it would give them options for using tools that create a smaller amount of smoke.

Phase two of the experiments involves an examination of the contents of the surgical smoke and their potential effects on surgeons.

“The composition of surgical smoke includes a long list of chemicals, but the ones that are of particular concern are acrylonitrile, hydrogen cyanide, benzene and formaldehyde,” said Sakhel, who initially proposed the project to Katsioloudis.

“All of these are carcinogenic and can be absorbed through the skin and lungs. In other words, the donning of a facemask will not protect against the harmful effects of these gases. There have also been reports that surgical smoke can harbor Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) particles and blood fragments with the potential of viral disease transmission to the operator.”

Phase two of the experiments will require a modification to the box Katsioloudis and his students built – specifically, the addition of a screen at the top of the box to trap chemicals and particles from the smoke, using a system inside the box that replicates the negative pressure created when a surgeon inhales.

“Depending on the amount and size of those particles, we will send them out to a laboratory for analysis. We want to find out, No. 1, is the amount of those molecules enough to create an issue for somebody inhaling them, and No. 2, are those particles small enough that they can go through the mask the surgeon is wearing,” Katsioloudis said.

Phase three of the research project would require additional funding to build a specific piece of equipment that could minimize surgical smoke, Katsioloudis said. For now, though, he and Sakhel are focusing on the tasks at hand. Once phase one is concluded and all the data are analyzed, the two researchers plan to submit an article to a medical journal, and perhaps an engineering journal as well.

They have written a grant proposal seeking $25,000 in funding to continue the project through phase two. Phase three, Katsioloudis said, would require major funding, and could ultimately result in a patent.

The Industrial and Scientific Research Center, a collaboration between the Department of STEM Education and Professional Studies and the ODU Business Gateway, was established to offer real-world industrial and scientific research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.

Katsioloudis (left) and Agee with their invention
Global Connections

Health Sciences
Students Meet Up
With Madres Tutelares
In the Caribbean

BY JIM RAPER
Spring break 2012 in the Dominican Republic was no carefree vacation for 18 faculty members and students from the College of Health Sciences’ programs in physical therapy and nursing. That was evident right from the start when the visitors from Norfolk presented gift bags to their hosts. Each contained a stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, measuring tape, thermometer, timer and an assortment of medical brochures published in Spanish.

Although this was a first-of-its-kind visit to the Dominican Republic by the Old Dominion University representatives, the groundwork had been laid over the past 10 years by Gail Grisetti, associate professor of physical therapy, and the Norfolk-based Physicians for Peace (PFP). Grisetti has been a volunteer expert on PFP training missions to the Caribbean and Far East, and for much of the past decade has led educational visits by ODU physical therapists and their students to the Dominican Republic. For the 2012 spring trip, Grisetti ramped up the scope of the mission by urging her colleagues in nursing to come along.

“I was absolutely thrilled that Gail invited us,” said Janice Hawkins, chief academic advisor in ODU’s School of Nursing, who has been an advisor to PFP and has led medical missions to El Salvador and Haiti for the United Methodist Church’s Volunteers in Missions. “This spring break trip was the first official study abroad trip for nursing students at Old Dominion.”

Ron Sconyers, the retired Air Force brigadier general who is the president and CEO of Physicians for Peace, said his organization and the ODU College of Health Sciences began last year to plan the expansion of their Dominican Republic collaboration to include nursing faculty and students. One of the desired benefits was to expand the training that the ODU visitors could offer PFP’s Resource Mothers. This program is known in the Dominican Republic as Madres Tutelares.

Since 2005, the Resource Mothers initiative has been training local health mentors and pairing them with at-risk young mothers from poor barrios in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic’s largest city. The Resource Mothers are trained to provide prenatal, postnatal and early childhood education and assistance. The program was originally modeled after a Norfolk-based Resource Mothers program run through Norfolk’s Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters and Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Packing Stethoscopes for Spring Break
The program in Santo Domingo has 20 Resource Mothers working with 200 pregnant and recently delivered teenagers,” Sconyers said. “Since 2005, hundreds of young mothers have moved through the program, getting the support, education and guidance they need to have healthier pregnancies, healthier babies and brighter futures.

ODU nursing student Melissa Uribe and physical therapy student Jennifer Butler were the Facebook chroniclers of the training mission. Their posts, which can be found on the Physicians for Peace Facebook page, describe training sessions and interactions between the visitors, the Resource Mothers, and the clients in the barrios.

"From afar, one cannot truly appreciate the level of poverty in the barrios, nor how difficult and hazardous it can be to climb the narrow passages and ascend the hills to reach the clients," Butler wrote in a note she posted after ODU students made some house calls with the Resource Mothers. "Having climbed through these passages, one finds it difficult to imagine how a pregnant woman, especially in her third trimester, reaches her home without injury.

"In the following days, the physical therapy students will be teaching the Resource Mothers about motor milestones, which are especially important in the assessment of the children during the first year of life. We will incorporate what we saw in the barrio into our lessons and make the information we relay relevant to what the Resource Mothers may encounter with their clients."

Uribe spiced up her posts with asides about the local food and customs – platanos and camarrones on the dinner plate and men playing dominoes at small tables – and was pleased to learn more about PFP services in the island country: “orthotic and prosthetic services, as well as physical therapy for people who have lost a leg; therapy and rehabilitation for patients recovering from burn injuries; dental care for children and mothers in the Resource Mothers program; specialized surgeries for conditions like hypospadias and cleft palate; pediatric and neonatal advanced life support; and donations of medical equipment and medicine.”

After the first training session for Resource Mothers, Uribe posted, “We all introduced ourselves, and the Mothers were very forgiving of our Spanish. It was a fun experience that helped bring us all together. We focused on assessing heart rate and respirations, and presented information on normal adult ranges.”

Later, the trainers moved on to assessing blood pressure and to a discussion of ways to counter a barrio myth that alcoholic beverages cleanse a woman’s body during pregnancy. “All of the skills that we presented today are techniques the Resource Mothers, as community health workers, can use to help their young clients,” Uribe wrote.

In addition to the workshops and visits to the barrios, the ODU group had the opportunity to observe pa-
tient care and interactions at PFP partner sites in and around Santo Domingo, including a rehabilitation center and a maternity hospital.

Hawkins, the faculty member from nursing who was part of the mission, said students and teachers are exposed to multidisciplinary problem solving by missions such as this. “We hope this will impact the students’ practice even when they return home, in understanding what other disciplines can do and communicating with each other to promote the best quality of care for their patients.

“The faculty interaction also helped us to get to know each other,” Hawkins added. “This increases future opportunities to collaborate on interdisciplinary projects that benefit our students and the College of Health Sciences.”

Looking at the broader picture, Hawkins said, “Health science professionals are uniquely equipped to address global health inequities and access to health care in resource-limited countries. This trip introduces future health science professionals to these needs and opportunities. My hope is that they will commit to a lifelong mission of serving the underserved, whether here or abroad.”

The Resource Mothers trainees got certificates for successfully completing the training and high marks from the ODU contingent for their desire to increase their skills set. “We were most impressed with their dedication and excitement for learning the material that we presented,” Hawkins said. “They took notes, paid full attention and practiced after hours on the skills that we taught.”

Sconyers, the Physicians for Peace CEO, said that the training will help the Resource Mothers identify potential health issues and when to advise their young clients to seek medical assistance. “We hope that, after participating in the exchange, the students feel better equipped to address the diverse needs of their future patients, and we believe that our approach complements ODU’s position as a global university.”

THE PFP-ODU Connection

Physicians for Peace was founded in 1989 by the late Dr. Charles Horton, a longtime friend of ODU who was granted an honorary doctorate by the university in 2006. The program now sponsors training missions all over the world that are staffed entirely by volunteer medical educators—physicians, nurses, therapists and others—who are dedicated to building stronger health systems where the need is the greatest.

Staff members are located in Norfolk, the Dominican Republic and the Philippines, and PFP has six core medical programs: burn care, dental care, maternal and child health, Seeing Clearly (vision), specialized surgery and Walking Free (amputee rehabilitation).

Gail Grisetti, ODU associate professor of physical therapy, has been involved with PFP for more than a decade, focusing mainly on volunteering her own expertise and leading student exchanges in the Walking Free and burn care programs. Burns, loss of limbs and physical disabilities are a particular problem in developing countries, making ODU’s contribution of expertise in physical therapy especially valuable to PFP.

In addition, Gayle McCombs, ODU University Professor of dental hygiene, and her students have participated in PFP dental care missions to Nicaragua.

Shelley Mishoe, dean of the College of Health Sciences, has recently joined the PFP board of directors and Ron Sconyers, the group’s CEO, serves on an ODU task force studying the creation of a global health center.

PFP has a student group active on the ODU campus and numerous students and student groups provide volunteer services at the PFP warehouse in Norfolk. Anyone interested in becoming a PFP volunteer can contact Anna Wood at awood@physiciansforpeace.org.
REPORT CARD FOR

Hampton Roads

JAMES KOCH EDITS

STATE OF THE REGION,
A ‘MUST READ’
FOR STATE
OPINION LEADERS.

by Steve Daniel
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY PRIDES ITSELF ON THE MANY INITIATIVES IT UNDERTAKES TO ENGAGE THE HAMPTON ROADS COMMUNITY, BUT PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST VISIBLE – AND IMPACTFUL – OUTREACH EFFORTS IS A PUBLICATION THAT COMES OUT ONLY ONCE A YEAR-STATE OF THE REGION.

Since its debut in 2000, the State of the Region report, produced by the university’s Regional Studies Institute and edited by former ODU president James Koch, has put Hampton Roads under the microscope, looking at everything from the economy to transportation to partisan politics. Koch now is the ODU Board of Visitors Professor of Economics.

The State of the Region report has gained a widespread following among area leaders, including elected officials, senior civil servants and other opinion leaders. Lead Hampton Roads, a program of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and the area’s oldest and largest leadership network, sponsors a breakfast each year coinciding with the report’s publication, at which Koch talks about the findings of the latest issue, concentrating on the status of the local economy and sharing his thoughts on what lies ahead. Approximately 700 people attend the annual breakfast, and another 300 go to two other introductory breakfasts in the region.

They have come to expect a well-researched forecast, and while they would much prefer to hear good news each year, sometimes, the report’s economic outlook for Hampton Roads is less than rosy. Following the publication of the 2010 report, Koch warned that the impending closure of the Joint Forces Command, combined with possible defense spending cuts and the financial issues brought about by rising sea levels, could well portend dark clouds on the economic horizon. It was a message not lost on area leaders.

Quoted in an Oct. 15, 2010, Inside Business story, Dana Dickens, president of the Hampton Roads Partnership, said, “We have some real challenges coming down the pike. The real challenges are the result, as he points out, of our dependency on one industry, which is the military. What Dr. Koch delivered was a wake-up call for the region.”

Koch and the researchers who write for the report do not have axes to grind or an agenda other than to make Hampton Roads a better place to live, he affirms. But that doesn’t mean the report will shy away from controversial issues. A case in point was the chapter in 2010 that offered a sound, detached economic analysis of Norfolk’s then-forthcoming light rail system, The Tide.

“I don’t deliberately seek controversial topics and I don’t seek to make people angry. We’re not out to create fights. I do look for ‘important’ topics that relate to issues that citizens either already are concerned about, or probably should be concerned about,” Koch says, adding, “We want citizens to have sufficient accurate information to understand the most important issues and to enable them to make intelligent choices.”

From the popularity of the breakfast presentations and the 50 SOR talks Koch gives each year, to the response of the local media, to the more than 2,500 Internet hits and 600-plus downloads the report received last year, it is clear that people are paying attention. And, in a number of cases, this has led to both debate and action.

“I must be careful here in saying that ‘so and so clearly took an action, or changed her behavior because of the report,’” Koch notes, when pressed to offer some examples of actions that have been taken as a result of facts or opinions expressed in the publication. “I might know this to be true and in some cases the affected parties have told me so, but I won’t make friends or influence people if I openly cite examples and attach the changes to specific people.”

Some of the more prominent instances where the SOR has influenced the debate and/or action include:

- Major league sports franchises – The 2001 report advised that bringing a major league sports team to Hampton Roads might not be in the best interest of the region.
- Boat taxes – In discussing a series of reductions in taxes levied upon boats, especially pleasure boats, the 2005 report noted: “All in all, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the cities and counties of Hampton Roads have shot themselves in their proverbial feet if they hoped they would be better off economically by reducing boat taxes.”
Look for These Articles In State of the Region 2012

- Gathering Steam: The Regional Economy Recovers (Slowly)
- How Much is Too Much? Comparing Income Inequality and the Cost of Living in Hampton Roads to New York City
- Lawyers and Law Firms in Hampton Roads
- Do We Have Enough Physicians in Hampton Roads?
- Does the Commonwealth Balance Its Budget on the Backs of Local Governments?
- A Powerful Economic Engine: The Economic Impact of Eastern Virginia Medical School
- K-12 Private Education: Southside Hampton Roads
- Home Schooling: Our Fastest Growing Alternative in K-12 Education
- Modeling and Simulation in Hampton Roads

State of the Region reports may be found at www.odu.edu/forecasting and www.jamesvkoch.com.
The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) announced earlier this year that Old Dominion University political scientist Steve Yetiv had won Virginia’s top academic award for college and university professors for “superior accomplishments in teaching, research and public service.”

Indeed, his outstanding research accomplishments and his unique public outreach are related. In a 10-week span earlier this year he wrote one commentary that appeared in the Washington Post and four others for The Christian Science Monitor. The Post article, “Undue Worry About Oil and Iran,” was the top article in the newspaper’s Sunday Opinions section. All of these articles have been reprinted online and generated debate worldwide.

Yetiv’s “8 Reasons America Is Not in Decline” (see it at right) was published by the Monitor in early March, beginning the cascade of articles he wrote that were tied to current events and to a book he is working on about America’s relative standing in the world. The new book will add to his other prize-winning books published over the past two decades on global energy and American foreign policy, U.S. decision making and foreign policy toward the Middle East, and the link between globalization and national security.

“Much global attention is focused on the issue of potential American decline,” Yetiv noted. “Yet, predictions of U.S. decline have proven false in the past 40 years. Greater insight into this question is vital because America’s trajectory may well define the 21st century. My book project examines to what extent, if at all, America is in decline globally and, if so, how is it in decline.”

Yetiv’s high standing as a scholar and a teacher brought him the 2012 Outstanding Faculty Award, which is sponsored by SCHEV. He is only the fifth political scientist to win in Virginia’s vaunted university system in the past 14 years.

Writing in a nomination letter on behalf of Yetiv, his colleague Patrick James, professor and director, Center for International Studies, University of Southern California, and former vice president, International Studies Association, noted: “As a scholar, I regard Steve Yetiv as world class. This is indicated by … novel, heavy volume research, including four top 10-ranked university press books in the past seven years. Because he is world class, he certainly deserves recognition within his own state of Virginia.”

Yetiv joined the ODU faculty in 1993 following a post-doctoral position in international affairs at Harvard University (1990-93). He has been a consultant to the U.S. Departments of State, Defense, and Energy; to the US General Accounting Office; and to CNN where one of his projects won an Edward R. Murrow Overseas Press Club Award. He has traveled to more than 20 countries and appeared on CNBC, CNN, CSPAN, among other outlets. He has published more than 250 opinion/editorial pieces.

(To view Yetiv’s full nomination packet for the SCHEV award, visit http://www.odu.edu/~syetiv/.)
8 Reasons America Is NOT in Decline

As many as 70 percent of Americans believe that the United States is in decline. And who can blame them? High unemployment. Crushing debt. Political gridlock. And students who think that Plato created the first plate. A Foreign Affairs magazine cover recently asked: “Is America Over?”

Steve Yetiv says “Probably Not;” that America remains very strong in key areas of global vitality—stronger than our national pessimism suggests. And it is unlikely to be superseded by another country anytime soon, though a much more methodical study of the subject is needed.

Mr. Yetiv urges readers to consider these eight facts. The U.S.:

1. **Has most competitive major economy in the world**
The stakes in the debate on American decline are big. Exaggerated views of demise can create a self-fulfilling prophecy at home, encourage global troublemakers, and produce world economic and strategic instability.

Let’s set the record straight. America has had the most competitive major economy in the world over the past several years, according to the World Economic Forum. Only the small states of Switzerland, Sweden, Finland and Singapore sometimes eclipse it. Even the European Union countries are now looking to America to help them out of their debt crisis, as ironic as that may sound.

2. **Has world’s best entrepreneurs and most Fortune 500 companies**
It has the world’s best entrepreneurs and by far the highest number of Fortune 500 companies. It remains at the forefront of the technologies of the future, such as biotechnology and nanotechnology, and has the advantage in cyberspace, even though it has fallen behind in some other areas, like green technologies.

3. **Remains world’s leading magnet for immigrants**
It remains by far the world’s leading magnet for immigrants, allowing it to draw on millions of bright, hardworking people. It’s hard to exaggerate such brain power, which constantly helps renew the country.

4. **Has many trustworthy allies**
It has trustworthy allies in NATO, the EU, the Group of 20 countries, and elsewhere that usually help it meet national and international goals. Contrast that with, let’s say, China and Russia. They suspect each other and often lack such global support.

5. **Has weakened adversaries**
It benefits because most of its adversaries are largely constrained and less threatening than they used to be. North Korea is a pariah. Syria is on the ropes. Hugo Chavez is not well liked and is ailing. Fidel Castro is a has-been. Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden are dead. The Soviet Union is gone.

6. **Has vast energy resources**
It lacks a comprehensive energy policy, but it has more energy resources than any major country, except Russia. The U.S. is also less dependent on oil than most great powers. That’s important in a world where energy is becoming increasingly central.

7. **Is leader in global move toward democracy**
It has spearheaded the global move toward democracy, which has been on the march in the past 100 years – not communism, fascism, Nazism, autocracy, radical Islamism or any other forms of governance. According to sophisticated rankings, America ranks third in soft power – the ability to attract others due to culture and policies, marginally behind France and Britain. (China clocked in at No. 17).

8. **Has colleges and universities with top global rankings**
The U.S. trails badly in K-12 education – a huge problem – but its universities, especially at the graduate level, dominate the global rankings.

Views of American decline are not new, of course.

Those are tectonic shifts in world politics that we rarely appreciate in full. America also possesses a military that is far ahead of its rivals, allowing the U.S. to operate at great distances in unique ways. Difficulties in Iraq and Afghanistan are not a commentary on U.S. military capability, but on strategy and the challenges of nation-building.
An Arbiter of Good Tastes

BY JIM MORRISON

Lorraine Eaton whips up popular stories as staff epicure of the Virginian-Pilot.
If you just walked in, you might think it’s the tequila talking, but for the friends gathered around Lorraine Eaton’s eating counter, the critiques have been witty and withering all afternoon.

“It smells like the bathroom in a gas station,” says one friend.

“That’s what it tastes like,” adds another.

“That’s funky tasting,” adds the third, the displeasure flashing on her face.

Eaton is hosting a test of skinny margarita mixes and the electric green hopefule with names like Jordan’s Skinny Mixes and Go Cocktails! Margarita Mix are getting grades as low as their calories. Eaton orchestrates the action, mixing margaritas, herding the conversation so the reviewers cover a few key points including taste, color, body and “deprivation factor,” taking notes, and, in between, catching up on gossip.

While Eaton has been The Virgman-Pilot newspaper’s “staff epicure” since 2008, she’s been a foodie for as long as she can remember. Her friends at the tasting are part of a cooking club that began a decade ago and meets once a month. They name a theme and share dishes and more. “Food might be the excuse, but the camaraderie and friendship is the motivation,” says Judy Cowling, an artist and designer. “We’ve celebrated marriages, births, divorces, birthdays, anniversaries and honored deaths. There is always something good to eat and drink, and a hand to hold.”

Eaton says she has always been interested in cooking. Her mother invited her and her friends into the kitchen to make donuts and cakes. She was waiting on tables at Shoney’s by the time she was 16.

So the food beat seems like a natural evolution for her, a foodie who began reviewing restaurants when she was an editorial assistant at The Pilot’s newly opened Nags Head bureau. She took that job after graduating from Old Dominion University in 1986 with a mass communications degree, which the later supplemented with an MFA in creative writing.

But Eaton says she simply drifted into food writing. “I never really thought about it,” she claims. “It never crossed my mind, but what a great thing I just like food.”

The truth is, she says, she has no business being the newspaper staff writer responsible for all things culinary. That’s because she has no business being a staff writer. When the Churchland native was hired as an editorial assistant for the new Nags Head bureau, the bosses in big city Norfolk told her there was no chance – no chance – she’d become a reporter.

Eaton didn’t care. She had waited tables on the Outer Banks for years, she knew people there, and it was away from the intensity of the paper’s Norfolk headquarters. So it seemed a perfect fit and a good time, Cowling, then the office manager and advertising artist for that Nags Head office, recalls the new ODU graduate opening the door to their second floor office on a Monday morning wearing a white linen suit. “I swear her briefcase had a pink bikini strap hanging out of it,” Cowling says. “I introduced myself and asked, ‘How was Harborfest?’ (That’s the annual waterfront festival in Norfolk.) She raised one arm, planted her feet and said, ‘Honey, I WAS Harborfest!’”
Parking Lot Cuisine
Monarch Nation Gets Creative

Over the years, I’ve had plenty o’ fun on the job, but this was the best day ever.” That’s how The Virginian-Pilot’s Lorraine Eaton described her first brush with ODU tailgating in a 2009 article. Here are some of the “awards” she bestowed at that time on alums and friends of the university.

BEST TAILGATE FROM THE SMALLEST VEHICLE: Proving you don’t need to invest in a tent and 2-ton cooker, Tom Arrington (he attended ODU in the late ’60s and ’70s) and Beverly Crandell served up great grub from the trunk of a two-seat sports car. Eaton loved the crab cake sliders, each topped with a slice of dill pickle, and the Virginia wine that was paired with the food.

MOST GREGARIOUS HOST: JoJo Ardagna attracted a crowd with his banter and his Mediterranean-grilled chicken with garlic, salt, pepper and turmeric.

BEST ORIGINAL ADULT BEVERAGE: “Blue Lot Shots” were the creation of Richard ’79 and Cindy ’82 Ray. Each drink includes tequila, peach schnapps and blue food coloring. And they’re poured from a silver martini pitcher. Go, blue and silver!

MOST SCHOOL SPIRIT: Blue was also a theme chosen by ODU administrators Donna Bean, Deb Swiecinski and Marty Sharpe. Blue Jell-O shooters, blue cupcakes, bleu cheese burgers, blue lion mascot, blue flowers, blue tablecloths, blueberry lager, blue Hawaiian punch and a special blue cocktail served in plastic flutes.

MOST CARNIVOROUS: Joe Bambery ’84 and ’88 and Mike and Penny ’84 Powell served stuffed beef tenderloin, peppercorn encrusted tenderloin with bourbon mustard, a trio of wings and baby back ribs.

MOST SPIRITED DESSERT: Randy ’83 and Janelle Coffman made cookies shaped like “O,” “D” and “U.”

BEST BARBECUE: Kenny Skees ’86 smoked pork shoulders all night on Friday and pulled the pork the morning of the game. A vinegary-sauced treat.

Food figured in Eaton’s work from the start, but at first only as a sidelight. After trying her hand at restaurant reviews during her years in Nags Head, she started the newspaper’s popular Taste Test feature after she became education editor in Norfolk. She’s covered a variety of beats and edited the paper’s Teenology section (later named 757: Teens Cover the Code) for five years. She’s won awards for investigative journalism, but covering food and drink is different, the right subjects at the right time for her. The job mixes professional and personal passions for someone who turned 50 a couple of years back.

“It’s really nice to have a beat where people are enthusiastic about what they’re doing and not reluctant to share,” she says one afternoon, picking at a light lunch at Leila’s Mediterranean Groceries and Deli on Virginia Beach Boulevard. “It’s like a fellowship. If you really like food and someone else is passionate about it, you can spend the day with them. I’m with like-minded people so often.”

It’s a great time to be a food writer, she notes. People are more passionate and more curious about what they eat and how to make it. “People think I’m this great cook, but I’m not,” she says. “I’m just curious.”

She works mostly from her home, a cozy refuge distinctively decorated with bold art on a narrow lane in an old Virginia Beach neighborhood. Every month, she goes through three folders filled with ideas, culling the best. “It’s endless, the things you can write about, the people who are out there. I just can’t wait to write the next story,” she adds. “It sounds kind of crazy, but it’s all interesting to me. I write about stuff I like. That’s the best part of the job.”

If the restaurant reviews she wrote in Nags Head were the aune-bouche of her food writing career, then the Taste Test features she organized for the paper before getting the staff epicure job were the appetizer. Eaton began the popular monthly series during her five years as education editor, and the feature is still popular today. For each test, she invites readers to apply to be testers, and from a mailbag full of would-be helpers, she picks four people. Some applicants, she says, write pages about why they should be selected.

Potato salad, guacamole, milkshakes, oysters, biscuits and gravy, fish tacos, key lime pie and martinis have been among the dozens of dishes and drinks tested. Most of the venues that compete in the tests are local restaurants and bars, but one of her favorite Taste Tests was a competition between ODU tailgaters on a Saturday in 2009. So many ODU fans asked that their tailgating fare be “tested” that it took three teams of testers to pick the winners.

Eaton says she’s always amazed during the tests at how well four strangers with a shared passion for food get along. Once again, it’s that fellowship. “It’s always a great time and an interesting group dynamic,” she says. “Basically, they’re just great people to hang out with for an afternoon.”

Her voice as a writer is that of a curious explorer reporting back about her adventures and misadventures. She’s more like her favorite, Mark Bittman, the understated New York Times writer and author, than Anthony Bourdain, the smart-aleck grenade thrower and popular Food Channel critic. She counts among her treasured books a red cloth-covered copy of “The Gentleman’s Companion: Being an Exotic Cookery Book or Around the World with Knife, Fork, and Spoon,” originally published in 1939 (she also has the second volume, subtitled “Around the world with jigger, beaker and flask.”) The books were written by Charles H. Baker Jr., a bon vivant who traveled the world collecting recipes and stories to go with them for Esquire, Town & Country, and Gourmet.

Eaton travels the waterways and roadways of Virginia chronicling culinary
characters and learning how to make everything from mayonnaise to a Thanksgiving turkey sporting bikini tan lines. She is especially fond of the Eastern Shore. And while she knows and likes local celebrity chefs — Todd Jurich, Jerry Bryan and Syd Meers, among others — she also has a soft spot for that strip mall hole-in-the-wall, which led to her series, Off the Grid, exploring ethnic fare in the area.

If she doesn’t know how to do it or, as in the case of mayonnaise, if she tried making it once and failed miserably, the stories seem even more appealing to her. She’s learned how to make marshmallows, green eggs and ham (writing about the experience in rhyming verse, of course), and a three-course meal to celebrate The Year of the Dragon.

One afternoon in a Virginia Beach backyard, she takes a shot at “flair” bartending with Lisa Montero, a competitor in TGI Friday’s World Bartending Championships, thanks to her skillful flipping of bottles. Eaton’s early trials are comical but eventually she succeeds.

She makes no pretense about her skills. She’s someone readers can identify with, someone who has shared their failures.

“You never know how those stories will turn out,” she says. “I’m making marshmallows for the first time and there’s a guy there with a camera.”

When she meets mayonnaise maker Amy Huggins in Southern Shores, N.C., she admits her attempt at making the condiment 20 years earlier failed miserably.

With typical self-deprecation, Eaton writes: “Before class, a huddle with Julia Child seemed in order. Her ‘Mastering the Art of French Cooking’ informs that mayonnaise is part of a family, The Mayonnaise Family, which boasts upscale relations such as Sauce Aioli (made with olive oil), Sauce Tartare (made with hard-boiled egg whites pushed through a sieve) and Sauce Remoulade (flavored with anchovies).

“According to the master, making mayonnaise is ‘far from difficult’ and ‘takes no skill whatsoever.’

“Ouch.”

With Huggins’ help, the results — four ingredients, 15 seconds in a blender, Eaton writes — are perfect. It’s a small story, but a recurring theme in her work — a staple demystified that you, too, can make at home.

Although she grew up in the land of the fried, Eaton’s parents were transplanted New Yorkers who never fell in love with a sizzling grease. So Eaton remedied that failing on her own culinary resume by calling up Meers, the Mississippi native who has made Portsmouth’s Stove restaurant one of the region’s finest. Meers gently nudged her through the secrets of his Grandma Winnie’s fried chicken from how to butcher the bird, through the herbed brine and the proper flour and cornmeal, to the lard — yes, lard — heated in a cast-iron skillet.

“You can do this girl,” Meers tells Eaton. “The more you fail, the better you get. That’s the fun of cooking.”

For Eaton, that advice applied to her labors toward the master of fine arts degree in creative writing she received from ODU. She couldn’t resist the benefit of The Pilot paying for her graduate degree, so she went back to school at night at ODU in 1990. She was raising a young daughter so she didn’t exactly race through the curriculum, finishing in 1999.

“I remember lying on the floor with her in the nursery when she was sick, trying to get the reading done,” she says.

She remembers struggling through a fiction class with novelist Janet Peery, but was thankful later when she wrote a narrative about her brother dying from AIDS. Eaton took care of him when he was sick and says that the class gave her the confidence to tell his story, the story of a horrible death. “Her (Peery’s) class taught me so much about how to write that story.

Eaton’s on-the-job training — throwing a pizza.

Fiction writing gives you a freedom you don’t have when you’re writing news,” she says, “I had a really hard time with it. She was very gracious to me. She kept saying ‘imagine things.’ That’s really a great way to think about writing. Now, sometimes I try to imagine what I’m going into. It helps me discover the details.”

While Eaton seems to have been destined for a food writing career and she enjoys the work, she says it’s not easy. “It’s the hardest writing I’ve ever done, hands down,” she adds. “You have to describe food and it’s so easy to fall back on the same old terms. You want people to know what you experienced. When I read these reviews from writers that say that was ‘yummy,’ I just want to slap them.”

As she describes what she cooks up for dinner at home, Eaton keeps it simple. Her daughter is a picky eater. She has found one of the hazards of the job is putting on weight so she almost always eats salads, albeit salads with savory additions like feta and olives and ham.

“I would pull out Mark Bittman and make something fast, sausages and grapes with strawberries and balsamic,” she says. “Or I can always do something on the grill. And I’ve always got ham. I have two of them in my car now,” she adds while we’re finishing up lunch at Leila’s.
Friends of Jack Daniels
Stir Up a Party

Nick Maratos '05, Terry Vithoulkas '97, Joanna Kyriakidis (M.S. '11) and Dr. Christopher Nicholas are Greek members of the tailgating group.

Ken Danser shows what’s left of the “jambalaka” after 40 hungry people had chowed down.
Before we gave up on the idea of a tailgating photo, we put out some feelers among the tailgating teams that Eaton had written about. Could we find one team that would set up its full tailgating plot outside the Ainslie Game Day Complex on a June weekend day and throw a party for 25 or more folks?

The answer came back within hours from Ken Danser ’78, the leader together with his wife, Jeanne, of the Friends of Jack Daniels tailgating clan. “We’d love to.”

So it happened. On a beautiful, 80-degree Sunday, Danser and his cronies spent seven hours setting up, cooking, eating, drinking, singing, cleaning up and – in truth – hardly noticing the photography that was going on around them. “We don’t need much of an excuse to party,” said Danser, who is retired from a job with the Virginia distributor of Jack Daniels whisky and other spirits. Hence the team’s name.

Some serious fact-gathering also was accomplished, and, by the end of the day, Danser, his sidekick Pete Nicholas ’66, Eaton and the Monarch staff could agree on the following tips for tailgaters.

■ “Do decorate,” Eaton says. “A football will do. Or flowers. Or Big Blue bling.” It also doesn’t hurt to pick a narrative for your tailgating scheme, and have food, music, etc., to support it. Jack Daniels is an easy name to remember, and the twin statues of Mr. Daniels, the Tennessean who founded the distillery 150 years ago, mark the entrance to the team’s tent. The team also might be said to have multiple personalities, owing in part to the large number of Greeks who are members (Nicholas is one) and to the Louisiana roots of another key member, Mike Hall, former owner of Norfolk’s Bienville Grill and who is arguably the best Cajun cook in Hampton Roads.

■ By all means, do some real cooking – as opposed to heating up – on the tailgating site. “We pride ourselves on that,” Danser said. And, besides, the smells of tailgating are part of the attraction.

■ Prep the food at home, cleaning and dicing your ingredients and bringing them to the tailgating site with pre-measured amounts in plastic containers. The Dansers brought a big box of ready-to-cook ingredients for the meat and tomato stew that they would cook for the photo shoot. The stew was thickened by a little roux (something...
So you think you want to try tailgating?

Old Dominion University has created the following tailgating rules to help make the experience safe and enjoyable:

▲ Tailgating is allowed in surface lots and designated spots on campus. To enter the surface lots, you must display a vehicle pass provided by the Big Blue Club.
▲ Tailgating areas will open four hours prior to each football game’s kickoff.
▲ Tailgating at halftime and during the game is prohibited, but it can be enjoyed after the game for no more than two hours.
▲ Glass containers are not permitted in the tailgating area. Neither are kegs, party balls, drinking apparatus and alcohol drinking games.
▲ Grills are permitted in university surface lots only and must be elevated at least one foot above the parking surface so that heat does not cause damage to the asphalt.
▲ Coals from charcoal grills must be disposed in marked fire retardant receptacles on campus. Open pit fires are prohibited.
▲ Gas generators are prohibited.
▲ Pegging tents in parking lots is not allowed.
▲ No animals will be permitted in any designated tailgate areas and/or spaces, with the exception of trained service animals for fans with disabilities.
▲ Waste food items and trash must be disposed of in appropriate containers provided throughout campus.
▲ Tailgating areas may not extend beyond the designated parking space per vehicle, and may not impede vehicular traffic. Bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and rollerblade skates are prohibited within the designated tailgate areas and/or spaces.
▲ No household furniture, sofas, recliners, etc., are allowed.

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More about tailgating at ODU football games, including rules, can be found at http://www.odusports.com/tradb/FootballFanGuide.html.

Hall would use in jambalaya) and the dish might have been considered Cajun. But it really seemed to have more of its roots in Greece. Someone called the concoction “jambalaka.” It was served over ziti pasta.

“Plan to cook enough to share with anyone who wants to drop by, whether they be poor college students, tailgating friends or football fans.” Those words came from Eaton, but Dusen is a believer, too. His 25-gallon, half-inch-thick aluminum pot (it costs $500 from online wholesalers) held plenty of jambalaka. And good thing it did. Quite a few passersby ended up sharing in the bounty. Interestingly, the aromas from the cooking, and the Greek music, attracted several ODU students who happened to be in the neighborhood. One was Greece-native Lazaros Blatas, who is pursuing a master’s degree in business administration. Another was Trian Iliadas ’12, an Australian of Greek ancestry who has been a standout on ODU basketball teams for the past four years. Last, but not least, says Eaton: “Don’t forget the garbage bags.” When time came to close up shop after the photo shoot, The Friends of Jack Daniels required less than 30 minutes to pack up, clean up and move out. The only sign that they had been there was a nearby university refuse barrel filled with the team’s garbage bags.
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This fall, let your love for ODU guide you back to campus and enjoy the greatest place on earth. We’ve worked hard to put together a full schedule of activities so that all Monarchs will find something to appeal to them.

And, I’ll wager that you’ll find quite a few things that compel you to spend a few days back in Norfolk, or visit campus again and again if you’re still in the area.

Some highlights: a gathering for those who were involved in fraternity or sorority life; the Homecoming parade, viewable from the tailgating lots or along Monarch Way; the annual Alumni Honors Dinner. Of course, you can’t forget the big game on Saturday versus Villanova.

Exciting events are still being finalized so make sure to visit the alumni association website at odualumni.org for the latest schedule.

While you’re at it, make sure to visit our online community to update your contact information.

So, grab your GPS, program it for home, and let your heart lead you back here. We can’t wait to see you! For an up-to-date Homecoming schedule, make sure to visit www.odualumni.org. Some events have a limited number of spots so don’t delay!

-Dana Allen, Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations

Wednesday, October 10
8 P.M., Homecoming Comedy Show, North Cafe, Webb Center – Featuring comedians Red Grant, Ali Wong, & Omid Singh. Tickets must be purchased. For more information please contact Meghan Harr in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership at 757-683-3446.

Thursday, October 11
11 A.M.—3 P.M., Monarch Day, Kaufman Mall – Monarch Pride Day on Kaufman Mall is bigger and better than ever. Come out for hours of food, excitement and games, including presentation of the 2012 Homecoming Court.

6 P.M., Alumni Honors Dinner, Sheraton Waterside – Alumni, friends and community leaders will gather in honor of the 2012 Distinguished Alumni, Honorary Alumni, and Alumni Service Award winners. We will also recognize the members of the Class of 1962 with an induction into the Golden Pride. Proceeds from this event go to support Alumni Association programs including the Adam Thoroughgood Scholarship. Tickets must be purchased. For information on individual tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 757-683-3097 or 888-ODU-3435.

7 P.M., NPHC Step Show, Ted Constant Convocation Center – National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Office of Student Activities and Leadership bring you one of the most exciting events of the Homecoming week. Come watch as fraternities and sororities compete for the 2012 Step Show title. $5 for students. $12 for the public before day of show, $15 day of show.

Step Show & Concert Ticket Package Deal – Save $5 and pay only $32 when you buy a ticket to both the concert and the step show through Wednesday, October 10! You can purchase tickets to these events at www.coxtix.com.

Friday, October 12
8:30—10 A.M., Women’s Leadership Breakfast – First Lady Kate Broderick and Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations Dana Allen invite you to join them for this annual networking event guaranteed to inspire, motivate and educate. Speaker TBA. Barry M. Komisbaur Alumni Center

Noon, Founders’ Day Luncheon, Big Blue Room of Ted Constant Convocation Center – Share in the celebration of ODU and civic leaders as the University and Town ‘N’ Gown honor individuals who have made a significant impact on the university and Hampton Roads. Tickets are $20 each and may be purchased by contacting the Office of University Events at 757-683-3559.
OCTOBER 13 VS. VILLANOVA

2 P.M., Sailapalooza, ODU Sailing Center, Whitehurst Beach – ODU sailors and coaches will offer free sailing lessons and sailing rides as part of an effort to introduce more individuals to the sport. Donations will be accepted on behalf of Operation Smile, a nonprofit located in Hampton Roads and dedicated to repairing childhood facial deformities and building sustainable healthcare systems worldwide.

2 P.M., Tour of The Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries, 4509 Monarch Way – Enjoy a guided tour of the exhibit “Photographs with Teeth” in conjunction with the 35th Annual Literary Festival, “Words With Teeth.” This discussion will be led by Fred Boyensdorfer, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Letters, and Greta Pratt, assistant professor of art, who is also one of the photographers whose work is being exhibited.

5 P.M., Greek Gathering, Webs Center – Make plans to join in with other Greeks for this reception. Members are encouraged to wear their letters. Light refreshments will be served, and a cash bar will be available. To register, visit www.odualumni.org. $10 per person.

5 P.M., Field Hockey – ODU vs. Maryland, Powhatan Sports Complex – ODU will meet the defending NCAA champion Maryland for a rematch of the 2012 NCAA field hockey semifinal game.

6 P.M., BAC Social, Baxter’s Lounge, 500 Granby Street – Join members of the BAC for this no-host social. Registration is required and there is a charge. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations to RSVP. You can also visit the Black Alumni Chapter on Facebook (ODU Black Alumni Chapter) and Twitter (@ODUBlackAlumni) for information on other chapter-related Homecoming activities. To register, visit www.odualumni.org.

8 P.M., Homecoming Concert, Ted Constant Convocation Center – Artist TBA. Student ticket prices: $15 before day of show, $22 day of show. Public ticket prices: $25 before day of show, $35 day of show.

Saturday, October 13

Please note that some start times for events on this day are subject to change after the publication deadline, due to possible TV broadcasts. Make sure to visit odualumni.org for the most up-to-date schedule.

10 A.M.—9 P.M., Open House, Recreation Center – Tour this modern facility and learn more about the programs and services it offers to alumni and the community, including the opportunity for ODU alumni to purchase specially priced memberships.

11 A.M., Homecoming Parade, Monarch Way – Student organizations, bands, businesses and civic groups come together in this annual tradition to kick off the day’s celebration! View the parade and its many colorful floats as it makes its way around campus and through the Village on Monarch Way. Prime viewing spots are located along Monarch Way, 49th Street and 43rd Street. (Note: Parking lots will open early to allow those with tailgating passes to enter and park in time to watch the parade.)

12:30 P.M., Hall of Fame Luncheon, Hall of Fame Lobby, Ted Constant Convocation Center – Will include recognition of outstanding former student athletes Justin Verlander (baseball), Angie Loy (field hockey), Atilia Vendegh (soccer), Nick Boothe (baseball) and Kevin Larkin (basketball). Tickets are $25 each and may be purchased by contacting Jackie Barrow at 757-683-3359.

12:30 P.M., Alumni Tailgate Tent, Kaufman Mall – Come by and tailgate with other alumni, fans and students. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. All alumni who come to the tent and register will be placed into a drawing to win 2 tickets to the William & Mary football game on Nov. 10. Tent will open 3 hours prior to kickoff.

3:30 P.M., ODU vs. Villanova Football Game, Foreman Field at S. B. Ballard Stadium – A very limited number of tickets are available through the Alumni Association and can only be purchased as part of a package with the Alumni Tailgate Tent. Single game ticket only purchase inquiries may be directed to the ticket office at 757-683-4444 and are subject to availability.

Sunday, October 14

10 A.M.—6 P.M., Open House, Recreation Center

1 P.M., Accounting Department 5K – Runners and walkers are welcome! Come out and join the ODU Department of Accounting for their annual 5K dash through our scenic campus. Registration is required with discounts for ODU alumni. Please contact Randall Spurrier, race coordinator at rsurrier@odu.edu or call 757-567-1930.

1 P.M., Field Hockey – ODU vs. Duke, Powhatan Sports Complex – ODU split a pair of games with the Blue Devils last year. ODU was ranked No. 1 in the nation for most of September and October last year and is seeking its 10th NCAA title. No admission charge.

In addition to the alumni web site visit the student homecoming site at orgs.odu.edu/homecoming/events.html
The Alumni Association’s new president, Stephanie Dickens ’94, almost wasn’t a Monarch. To hear her tell it, “I actually started my college career at Virginia Tech. But after my freshman year, I decided it wasn’t the right fit for me and began working at a local bank closer to home. After a few classes at Tidewater Community College, I transferred to ODU in 1991 and the rest, as they say, is history!” And while it wasn’t planned that way, it was a nice bonus to be at ODU as a commuter from the Churchland area at the same time as her brother, Gary James, was attending the school. He also graduated in ’94. During her time as a student, Stephanie was heavily involved in Alpha Xi Delta, where her commitment to the ODU network and interest in giving back were born.

After graduation, Dickens remained in banking, and she now is the vice president for retail lending at Old Point National Bank in Hampton, where she has been for 13 years. In addition, she has held leadership positions on the board of the Urban League of Hampton Roads and the Junior League. A member of the ODU Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2007, she remembers just how amazed she was at the changes on campus then. “When I first joined the board, I took a tour and was overwhelmed at the ODU of today. Then again, that was five years ago; look how much has changed, even since then.”

As a commuter student herself, Dickens knows how challenging it can be to reconnect with the university after graduation, but also values the great experiences other alumni who were commuters can bring to the association. Her first suggestion for those looking to reconnect: come visit campus. “ODU is your home, even if you didn’t live here 24/7 during your time. Come back. I guarantee you will find something that creates an amazing sense of pride once you come back and take a look around.” Her other suggestion: get involved with the students of today, both residential and commuter. “We are always looking for alumni to help network with current students about career options, get involved with recruiting new students, or participate in commencement to welcome them to the alumni association.”

Dickens’ call to action extends to all alumni. “We have more than 120,000 ODU alums, and we need the energy and experience of every single one of them to help connect alumni with the university and with each other.” Among other things, the new association president is hopeful that the organization can contact all alumni to let them know about events that would interest them, give them university updates and point out how they can support ODU.

“It sounds so simple, but our being able to support our alumni starts with being able to connect with you and get in touch.”

She invited all alumni to get (or stay) in touch with the Alumni Association by visiting www.odualumni.org. “And, if you’re curious about what you might have missed, take a look at our Facebook page for great photos and updates (facebook.com/odualumni). And while you’re there, like us if you haven’t yet,” she said.

Dickens also encourages anyone in the ODU community to get in touch with her via email at ODUAlumniPresidential@gmail.com. “Or, you can catch her and her husband, Jerry, and 3½-year-old daughter, Danielle, at any number of ODU football or basketball games in her coming year as president. “Dani just loves Big Blue and is trying to get him to come live with us. So, if you see him, chances are the Dickens family isn’t too far away!”

Stephanie Dickens ’94
New Alumni Leader Wants to Hear From You!
CELEBRATING
10 YEARS
OF ENTERTAINMENT
IN HAMPTON ROADS
Life After “The Voice!”

Leland Grant  Pushes Ahead Solo

The showbiz career of Leland Grant ’04 proves that good things do come from hard work.

He has starred on VH1’s reality show “In Search of the Partridge Family,” and more recently on NBC’s “The Voice!” competition for singers. But few of his fans know just how much he has invested in his entertainment career and where he wants to go from here.

After Grant’s loss in the fourth round of last season’s “The Voice!” he returned to Nashville to continue his road to success in music, but this time as a solo artist. Grant and his partner, Hailey Steele, no longer form the country duo “The LiNE.” They gave their farewell performance in March on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.”

Grant says he finds it refreshing to focus on music as an individual after three years as part of a duo. “I’m in the studio now, so my focus has been on writing and a bit of recording. I’m just trying to find a new direction. I’m really just taking my time and I don’t want to rush into anything. Right now it’s about coming back to center and finding my voice all over again.”

He believes he learned valuable lessons as a contestant on “The Voice!”, the most valuable being to keep moving forward and believing in himself. “Despite what anyone tells you, you’ve got to believe in yourself above all else. That’s the most important thing. When it comes down to it, you have to have faith in what you think you do well and what you think you should be doing. When things get really tough, count your blessings.”

What Grant learned at ODU also has helped his rise in the entertainment world, partly because he had such a unique experience, he says. His degree in interdisciplinary studies focused on the music business and production technology. When the Suffolk native entered the university, he planned to concentrate on studying piano. But he credits a few mentors with having the good sense to steer him toward interdisciplinary studies.

Dana Burnett, who at the time was ODU’s vice president for student affairs, played an extremely important role in Grant’s decision making as a student. “He is a go-to guy for advice, or anything for that matter. He introduced me to the idea where you can essentially create your own degree. He showed me that what I was doing and where I was headed was valuable and logical for me. I still chat with him every once in awhile,” says Grant.

If Grant could give any advice to current and future ODU alumni, it would be the importance of persistence. “In my world and especially in the entertainment industry, persistence beats out talent every time. There have been a lot of people I’ve met over the years that are way more talented than I am, but you can’t just be a great singer and sit at your house. It doesn’t work that way. You have to work and you have to work hard.”

–Diane Dougherty ’11
1940s
Wilbur “Bill” Henderson ‘46

passed away in January, Joseph S. Henderson ’91 adds a personal postscript to report that Bill “was the owner of the crowd control company which represented venues such as Foreman Field, the Norfolk Scope and the owner of the Drifter Restaurant in Ocean View.”

1950s
Linda Lou Jones VanStory ‘54

reports that her husband, Jerry, died in August 2011 at Wyboo Plantation, S.C., and that she has since returned to live in Chesterfield County, Va., where the couple had raised their family. Jerry was a track star at ODU in the 1950s. He graduated in 1968.

1970s
David Posey ‘71

writes that he has spent most of his career since 1974 at Merrill Lynch. “I now realize how smart my Pi Kappa Phi brothers and my college friends were to work for the military, local, state or federal governments since they are now retired. … Looking back, my four years at Old Dominion were a wonderful experience that gave me a valuable education, and the opportunity to have so many friends. Beginning with freshman orientation sitting on the end zone bleachers, through the graduation ceremony on the sideline bleachers in Foreman Field, those times and experiences remain as one of the best.”

Rick Fischer ‘73

a video producer and director for Ciber Inc. in Newport News, produced “Hand in Hand: A Training Series for Nursing Homes,” which won a 2011 Pegasus Award of Excellence. Pegasus recognizes excellence in non-broadcast videos. The training videos, which Ciber produced for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, focus on abuse of patients, especially those with dementia, in nursing homes. Fischer studied filmmaking at New York University after receiving a bachelor’s degree in art history from ODU.

Pam Dickerson ‘74

has been appointed director of continuing education for the Montana Nurses Association. She is a nurse entrepreneur, operating a continuing nursing education approved provider unit based in Ohio, and will work remotely on the Montana project. Pam served on the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation from 1995-97, then served as an appraiser and member of several ad hoc task forces with ANCC until 2008. At that time, she was reappointed to the Commission on Accreditation, and was elected chairperson of the commission in 2009. Pam has been instrumental in collaborating with accredited organizations, particularly the State Nurses Associations, in assuring that their needs were addressed and their voices heard as accreditation processes were reviewed and revised. She received the 2010 ANCC President’s Award in recognition of her leadership. On a personal note, Pam is married and has two adult children and four grandchildren. She is also “mom” to two miniature dachshunds.

Jack G. Travestle ‘76

holds degrees from Old Dominion University and the College of William and Mary, has been appointed commissioner of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission by Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell. Jack has served with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission since March 1, 1981. He has been chief of the Fisheries Management Division since 1984, and deputy commissioner since 2006. The position became open when former commissioner Steven G. Bowman retired from state service. After receiving a B.S. in biology from ODU in 1976, Travestle earned an M.S. in marine science at William and Mary. He resides in Toano with his wife, Ellen. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission serves as stewards of the Commonwealth’s marine and aquatic resources, and protectors of its tidal waters and estuaries. The agency manages saltwater fishing, both recreational and commercial, and works to create and maintain sustainable fisheries for the benefit of all anglers and the ecosystem. It also manages water bottoms in public trust for the citizens of the commonwealth.

Victoria Evans Crenshaw ‘77

was selected as vice president of programs and services for the National Capital Area chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association. The chapter provides information and support to the 80,000 people with Alzheimer’s disease and their 250,00 family caregivers living in the D.C., Northern Virginia and Maryland service area. Victoria earned a Ph.D. after receiving her bachelor’s degree in psychology from ODU.

Chris Jones ‘76 (MS ’82)

lead the Esoteric Rambler’s band in Hampton Roads that released its first CD in spring 2012. “Keg of Love” has 13 tracks, most of which were written by Jones, who also happens to be a beer columnist for Veer magazine.

The title track is described by Jones as “a song of love, a song of beer, a song of love and beer,” and the rest of the songs – such as “Hellbound Party Train” – pretty much build upon the same slyly theme. The album notes boast, “Esoteric: Rambler’s is a band with a hops-centric world view.” The band’s first CD, Keg of Love will quench your thirst for music to partake a pint by. The band is made up of six Virginia musicians who got together to play some music, sip a few beers, and ponder a few things.”

Jones is lead vocalist and plays harmonica. Other band members are Jennings Lyon, rhythm guitar and harmonies; Frank Tiffany, lead guitar; Gene Bowers, banjo; Mike Connell, bass; and Peter Zinc, snare drum.

The CD is available on the Web at Amazon, CD Baby and iTunes, and in Hampton Roads at three local gourmet beer retailers (the Bon Vivant Markets in Suffolk and Smithfield, and the Grape and Gourmet in Virginia Beach) and one local music store (Birdland in Virginia Beach).

Wil James ‘78

was named interim principal of Burley Middle School in Virginia’s Albemarle County. He had been assistant principal at the county’s Walston Middle School for the two previous years. He received a B.A. in secondary education from ODU and a master’s in secondary school administration from the University of Virginia.

James Asher ‘78

has been named interim principal of Burley Middle School in Virginia’s Albemarle County. He had been assistant principal at the county’s Walston Middle School for the two previous years. He received a B.A. in secondary education from ODU and a master’s in secondary school administration from the University of Virginia.

Stephen Solosky ‘79

writes that he was featured in the Second Arts section of The Wall Street Journal on April 9, 2012. After he retired as a math professor, Stephen launched a business, Traveling Professor, a company that takes small tour groups to Paris, Italy and Peru. Read the article at: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203833004577251524178931452.html

WWW.ODU.EDU 45
Wayne Wilcox ’80 retired from the Army Reserves in April 2001, and continued his civilian career in the security sector, posting assignments in Afghanistan, Iraq and Singapore. From there, he went to Beijing, China, in 2006 and then to the United Kingdom in 2009, where he’s been semi-retired, looking after his kids (ages 9 and 13), and leading a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop. “I would certainly like to hear from any of my old friends from ODU, including ROTC, and I would very much like to meet any ODU people who happen to be visiting or working in the Greater London area!” wpwalcox@gmail.com

Dawn Foxwell-Hassan ’85 has joined Guernsey Tingle Architects of Williamsburg as its financial manager/controller. Dawn, a Virginia Beach native, earned a B.S. in computer science at ODU and a master’s in counseling from the College of William and Mary. She comes to the new job with 10 years of experience as a financial/proj ect manager in the architectural, engineering and construction industries.

Michele Mulich ’85 recently accepted a position at Allegis Group located in Hanover, Md., as an account manager. “I’m looking forward to working in the customer engagement strategy and planning area of Allegis Group,” the largest privately held staffing company in the U.S.

David Velinsky (’87 Ph.D.) has been named department head for Drexel University’s new Biodiversity, Earth and Environmental Science academic program. He also serves as section leader for biogeochemistry at Drexel’s Academy of Natural Sciences, America’s oldest natural history museum, and as director of the Philadelphia university’s Patrick Center for Environmental Research.

Michael G. Goldsmith ’88 (M.A. ’89) was promoted from captain to police chief for the Norfolk Police Department in June. Goldsmith, 49, has been a Norfolk police officer.
since February 1989, working beats on the street, as a detective and with Homeland Security for the department, while also studying for a master’s degree in applied sociology from ODU and then an MBA in 2007 from the College of William and Mary. Goodison was chosen over more than 90 applicants, most from outside the department. Norfolk’s last permanent police chief who came up through the ranks was Henry P. Henson, who retired in 1993.

Chad Saunders ‘88 has been named vice president and general manager of Bayshore Concrete Products, a wholly owned subsidiary of Skanska USA. Bayshore was formed in 1961 in Cape Charles, on Virginia’s Eastern Shore, to supply precast concrete to construct the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Chad started as assistant chief engineer for the company’s civil engineering projects 13 years ago. His local projects have included the new Chincoteague Bridge and numerous piers at Naval Station Norfolk and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Skanska USA Building, which specializes in building construction, and Skanska USA Civil, focused on civil infrastructure, generated $4.8 billion in revenue in 2010, representing 30 percent of Skanska’s global revenues.

Caroline Schloss ‘88 writes, “As (marketing and development) assistant to producer Danny Green of Mr. Smoothie Productions, we are happy to announce the completion of the movie ‘Mr. Sophistication.’ Visit MrSophisticationMovie.com and catch the trailer.”

Carlton Apperson ’89 (M.A. ’11) returned to ODU for a second degree, earning his master’s degree in English literature in fall 2011. Carlton resides in the Ghent area of Norfolk with his wife, Mary Beth, and son, Matthew.

Adrienne Goodson ‘89, ODU women’s basketball assistant coach, was inducted into the Hudson County Sports Hall of Fame on May 17, 2012, at the Casino-in-the-Park in Jersey City, N.J. Goodson played on Old Dominion’s 1985 NCAA National Championship team, scoring 323 points as a freshman, the seventh most by a first-year player in school history. She was a two-time

ALUMNI PROFILE

Why Art Matters

Brandon Burdick is Portsmouth’s Elementary Teacher of the Year

In the art classes that Brandon Burdick ’07 teaches in Portsmouth Douglass Park Elementary School, pupils benefit from his rather broad interpretation of what art is and why it matters. This faith he has in the creative process, and its ability to inspire academic performance across the curriculum, resulted in his selection as the 2012 Elementary Teacher of the Year for the Portsmouth school district.

The art program he has helped to develop at Douglass Park during the past few years has spawned a school wide art show — which was featured on a local television news report — and given artistic confidence to lots of children who can’t draw.

Along the way he has written a manifesto about art’s place in elementary schooling that emphasizes pupils’ need to feel simultaneously comfortable and challenged in the classroom.

“I ask them to throw away all of their assumptions about art, all of their fears that they have about drawing, and just listen,” he writes in the statement: “Listen to the methods of creating, and if they don’t quite grasp it, it’s okay. We try it a different way. In art, just as is true in life most of the time, there is more than one way to get the right answer. It is up to the student to find it. I guide, give suggestions, model some methods that have been tried and have been successful, and more importantly have been failures, share my knowledge and passion for the assignment, and in the end the students will ultimately find the right answer through their own experimentation.

“You may ask how I gauge achievement if I don’t have a set, right answer. I believe that this is the hardest part of being an art educator, but the most rewarding. You have to observe every single student. See what he or she has learned. Did they follow the criteria set forth in the lesson? Did they achieve their goal? Did they better themselves, compared to where they started? Are they satisfied with their work and why or why not? Self reflection is key. Understanding what is learned, not just methods, but the deeper meaning within, is vital.”

Patti Edwards was the senior art instructor who mentored Burdick while he was a student in ODU’s art education program. “As his ODU supervisor, I found him to be a very caring, passionate young teacher,” she said. “While on campus he worked with youngsters during the free Saturday Morning Art Classes (SMAC) and was a role model for others. I truly think he is a model Monarch.”

Burdick credits the ODU Art Education Program and its service learning approach to teaching for preparing him to be a teacher. And he specifically mentions SMAC.

“SMAC classes were the final preparation before student teaching,” he said. “They opened my eyes to the necessities of prior planning, organization and preparation. Without the SMAC classes to open my eyes my student teaching experience would have been a rough transition.”
SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (SVCC) has a Christanna Campus in Alberta and a John H. Daniel Campus in Keysville, and also offers classes at educational centers in Blackstone, Chase City, Cumberland, Emporia, South Boston and South Hill. So it takes a large group of administrators, faculty and staff to run it, and close to 40 of them are alumni of Old Dominion University.

ODU Distance Learning, which has a partnership with SVCC, recently sponsored a luncheon to recognize the ODU alums who are so important to the operation of the college. The accompanying photo was taken on the day of the luncheon.

The alums (in alphabetical order) are Melissa Arthur, nursing; Sandra Hatcher Bacon, financial aid; Kelly Barnes-Watt, information technology; Vincent Brown, technology; Gary Cifers, educational support; Shana Cisco Dix, educational support; Michelle Edmonds, nursing dean; Wendy Ezell, computer operations; Shannon Vassar Feiman, enrollment management dean; Le’Tina Giles, student activities; Tiffany Griffin, bridges technician; Lois Griles, administrative assistant; Hannah Guarino, educational support; Karen Hopkins, nursing; Aubrey Hyde, fire science technology; Katherine Irby, Middle College; Katie Jackson, career pathways; Rebecca Laben, health sciences; Angela McClintock, learning skills; Katie McDaniel, Middle College; Leigh Moore, nursing; Felicia Omick, nursing; Chad Patton, planning and institutional effectiveness dean; Judy Reece, dual enrollment; Melissa Robbins, administrative specialist; Dorothea Sizemore, counseling; Misty Smiley, workforce development; David Smith, biological/chemical sciences; Jonette Talbott, practical nursing; Anthony Taylor, network administrative assistant; Dorothea Sizemore, counseling; Misty Smiley, workforce development; David Smith, biological/chemical sciences; Jonette Talbott, practical nursing; Mary Worrell, practical nursing.

Valarie [Adelman] Blaes ’92 invested her 20 years of corporate marketing experience to form her own company, Blaes Communications Consulting, LLC, launched in December 2011 in Richmond. The company provides corporate communications, social media management and training, proposal management and corporate identity and branding consulting. Its website is www.blasescommunications.com.

Joseph DeStefano ’92 was recently appointed as director of campus safety and security for College of The Albermarle in Elizabeth City, N.C. He worked for 11 years as director of the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program and as division chair for health sciences and public services at the college. His responsibilities include safety on the main campus and satellite campuses located in Manteo and Edenton, N.C.

Roy Drake ’92 reports that he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in April 2012 at Patuxent River, Md., where he is a Navy commander and lead business financial manager for the Tactical Airlift, Adversary and Support Aircraft Program Office. He recently transferred to OPM NAV N41 at the Pentagon.

Deborah Lohmeier ’93 has been elected as an owner of Burgess & Niple, an architectural and engineering firm with offices across the nation. Currently director of Burgess & Niple’s Virginia Beach office, Deborah has led projects in the mid-Atlantic region since 2004 for military clients, state and federal agencies and private developers, with a focus on sustainable design. Deborah is a registered Professional Engineer and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accredited professional. She holds an MBA from the College of William and Mary.

Tracy Griffin ’94 recently accepted a position as marketing manager at Hanesbrands Inc. in Winston-Salem, N.C. Tracy previously worked as e-commerce marketing manager for Circuit City.

Cynthia J. Manning (M.E. ’95) has been promoted to vice president at STV, an architectural, engineer-
ing, planning, environmental services and construction management firm based in Douglassville, Pa. She continues as the firm’s federal program manager, with responsibilities for business development and as project executive on major military contracts. Manning retired as commander with more than 23 years in the U.S. Navy’s Civil Engineer Corps. She earned a B.S. in ocean engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and an M.E. in environmental engineering from ODU. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in Virginia and Pennsylvania and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accredited professional.

David Quattrochi ’95, the superintendent of the Edison Local School District in Ohio, delivered the commencement address in May to the graduating class at Toronto High School, Steubenville, Ohio, where he attended high school. He told an inspirational story about determination to succeed, incorporating evidence from the lives of actress Hillary Swank and “Harry Potter” author J. K. Rowling. Quattrochi earned a bachelor’s degree in history from ODU before getting his doctorate in educational leadership from West Virginia University.

Heather M. Ham ’96 has taken a job as Norfolk office director for Pennoni Associates, an engineering, design and consulting firm with headquarters in Philadelphia. She previously was transportation program manager for the city of Virginia Beach’s Department of Public Works. Heather’s new duties include client services and business development in the region, leveraging her wide range of civil engineering experience in the private and public sectors. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in Virginia. Heather is a member and past president of the Greater Hampton Roads chapter of the American Society of Highway Engineers, the VA/DC/MD chapter of the American Public Works Association, the Virginia Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the Project Management Institute. She also serves on the ODU Civil and Environmental Engineering Visiting Council.

David E. Moyer ’96 has returned to the East Coast after working at the

ALUMNI PROFILE

A Trailblazer in Zambia

First Female Engineer for Mining Company Mfikeyi Makayi ’07, Bets Against the Odds

Mfikeyi Makayi ’07 (M.E.E. ’09) is the first female engineer in the history of the giant Zambian mining company Kansanshi Mining PLC, and as such faces daily challenges. Because she feels she’s at a disadvantage as the only Zambian woman – for now – working at her level in the engineering mining division, Makayi said she has relied on lessons she learned in her seven years in Norfolk.

“I think generally it’s the American way, where the underdogs keep fighting until they win,” she said. “All you have to do is look at American movies that have underdog themes – ‘Rocky,’ ‘Remember the Titans,’ ‘Dodgeball’. Such a way of thinking promotes one’s self-belief against the odds.”

Makayi has so far beaten those odds. The now-28-year-old was born in the Zambian capital of Lusaka, growing up with her parents and three brothers (her father died in 2009).

She came to Old Dominion in 2002 after being awarded an International Student and Scholar Services scholarship out of high school.

“My time at ODU forced me to be truly independent, determined and a go-getter,” she said. “I had great professors and met my best friends at ODU, so the environment I found and developed in around Norfolk prepared me adequately to deal with such a demanding job.”

One of her academic mentors at the university was Saikou Diallo, then a doctoral student and now a research assistant professor at ODU’s Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center. Diallo, also from the African continent, was impressed with his young colleague.

“Mfikeyi is a very bright young lady whom I met during her undergraduate studies at ODU,” he said. “She has a great personality to boot. We became fast friends and I always enjoyed her sense of humor and commitment to helping others. She is an asset to her family and community and has a great future in this world.”

Makayi earned her B.S in civil engineering and then received permission from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to remain in the country and work for one year. When the world economy sagged in 2008, Makayi to return to ODU to pursue a master’s in environmental engineering, which she received in December 2009.

She currently splits her time between Zambia and the United Kingdom, where her company is sponsoring her Master of Science in mining engineering from the University of Exeter in Cornwall, England. She is scheduled to complete that degree in June 2013.

-Brendan O’Hallarn
Oregon Zoo in Portland. His new job is as curator of estuarine biology at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Md. He has also worked as senior biologist for the South Carolina Aquarium during 14 years of experience in laboratories, aquaria and zoos. A Virginia native, Moyer says that he is thrilled to be back in the mid-Atlantic region. “I’m excited to get back to my roots on the Chesapeake Bay and to hands-on experiences like managing an aquatic collection, interacting with visitors and working with a great staff.”

Nancy Welch ’97 M.B.A. was a panelist for the Business Continuity Planning program of a Cox Hampton Roads Executive Discussion Series seminar in June. The theme of the discussion was the various disruptions – in addition to disasters – that can cripple a business, and how to do business continuity planning. Welch is director of the Health Department for the city of Chesapeake.

Salome Harrison ’98 was featured in a column in The Washington Post about raising children as a single mother. Mired in poverty as a child in Alabama, she entered a Navy officer training program and later earned a degree in computer engineering at ODU. Today she is a computer programmer with the federal government and lives in Bowie, Md., with Kierra, 14, and Isaiah, 13.

2000s

Theresa A. Kirchner ’01 (’02 M.B.A., ’07 Ph.D.) was a panelist for the Business Continuity Planning program of a Cox Hampton Roads Executive Discussion Series seminar in June. The theme of the discussion was the various disruptions – in addition to disasters – that can cripple a business, and how to do business continuity planning. Kirchner is an assistant professor of management in the Hampton University School of Business.

Jean-Philippe Gobeil-Jobidon ’01 received a master’s degree specializing in regulatory affairs for drugs, biologics and medical devices, from Northeastern University on April 21, 2012.

Louis Ludwig ’01 recently accepted a position as an associate attorney at Pomerantz Haudek Grossman & Gross LLP, located in Chicago.

Noel Goldberg (Psy.D. ’02) is a licensed clinical psychologist in the Washington, D.C., area. In addition to private practice, he is contracted to work with returning wounded service members at Ft. Belvoir Community Hospital and previously worked at the VA and Walter Reed Army medical centers in the area. Noel says his time at ODU contributed “a vital part” to his training, education and career accomplishments. He recently published “The ABC’s of Mental Health: Ten Chapters to Healing” to put a “self-help” tool into the hands of those who may benefit from it. It is available through Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble in paperback or electronic versions. You can find him on Facebook and YouTube.

Christianna Niesprachk ’03 joined Ofitl Kurman as an associate in its estate, trust and elder law practice group in January. Ofitl Kurman is a mid-Atlantic law firm and Christi works out of its Vienna, Va., office.

Ian Frame ’04 wrote that he and his wife, Amanda, expected the birth of their first child, Declan, in late March. Additionally, Ian recently had an article published in the Liberty University Law Review titled “If you build it, he will come: Judicial takings and a search for common ground.” Ian expected to graduate from Liberty University’s law school this spring and looks forward to practicing law in the commonwealth of Virginia.

Martin Robertson ’05 was recently selected for promotion to the rank of Commander and will be assigned as the executive officer of USS RENTZ (FFG-46).

Thorayya Giovannelli ’06 recently graduated with a PsyD from Regent University and was named as an Outstanding Student. She will begin a residency in poly-trauma/traumatic brain injury at the Memphis VA Medical Center.

Navy Lt. Douglas C. Ballig ’06, currently attached to the Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 homeported in Jacksonville, Fla., was recently awarded the 2011 Aviation Battle Efficiency (Battle “E”) top performance award from Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF). The CNAF aviation Battle “E” recognizes the highest standards of performance readiness and efficiency Navy-wide within the aircraft carrier and aviation squadron.

Christian Burres ’06 writes to say, “After working for Target for six years in Suffolk as a systems engineer, I have accepted a promotion to controls engineer and will be moving to the Minneapolis/St. Paul area in May. Although I will miss attending Monarch football games in the fall, I look forward to continuing to cheer on the Monarchs from the Twin Cities!”

Alexander Johnson ’06 was named chief financial officer for Hall of Fame Beverages Inc. in April, just ahead of the Dallas company’s push to expand its Grand Ma Ma brand of sweet tea into East Coast markets. Alexander has worked six years in corporate finance, including contract management, consulting and compliance with government contract regulations. Hall of Fame’s best-known product is named for former New York Knicks basketball player Larry Johnson, who played the Grand Ma Ma character in Converse shoe commercials in the 1990s while playing in the NBA (YouTube: Converse React – Larry Johnson). Just this April, the Knicks rehired Johnson to work in player development and community relations, about the same time his tea started appearing on shelves in the Big Apple. “I am excited to join an executive team at Hall of Fame Beverages,” said Alexander. “The company has an amazing line of products.”

Tiffany Mitchell ’06 writes that she is excited to begin a doctorate in education program at George Mason University this fall. This summer, she will attend the National Endowment for the Humanities’ HistoryMakers 2012 Summer Institute on African-American Political History: From Reconstruction to the Present. Tiffany was selected as one of 25 Summer Scholars, from a national applicant pool, to attend the month-long immersion study program for teachers, which takes place in Chicago. “None of this would be possible without the support of my former professors at ODU!”

Holly Beard Holzen (Ph.D. ’07), strategic research coordinator for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, was the recipient of a 2012 grant from the Health Impact Assessment Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Pew Charitable Trusts. The grant is one of 15 funded nationwide for health impact assessments, a type of study that looks at potential health impacts of government policies and projects. The focus of the Ohio project is potential positive and negative consequences of a proposed federal policy trying to align multi-agency physical inspections of low-income rental housing units, which is designed to reduce the frequency of inspections. Holzen received a doctorate at ODU in health services research under the mentorship of James Alan Neff, professor of community health.

Navy Lt. j.g. Kevin J. McCabe ’07 recently earned the “Wings of Gold” of a Naval aviator while attached to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 120, at the Norfolk Naval Air Station. The ceremony marked the culmination of months of flight training that included basic studies in engineering and navigation, training flights in simulators, aircraft familiarizations, basic and advanced instrument training, extended navigation flights, and landings and takeoffs aboard an aircraft carrier.

Derek Rall ’07 received a master’s degree in nurse anesthesia from Georgetown University on Dec. 17, 2011. He plans to practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

James Rodgers ’07 writes that he passed the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam in April 2012 and received his license June 7
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Meredith Slavin ’07 was recently promoted to associate merchandise planner at Aéropostale Inc. located in New York. In her new role she is responsible for developing, executing and communicating strategic merchandise financial plans and strategies, and is responsible for planning all men’s and women’s accessories for Aéropostale’s Canadian stores as well. This is her third promotion since joining Aéropostale in 2008.

Thomas G. Litwin (M.S., ’08), a Navy lieutenant serving aboard the guided missile frigate USS Nicholas (FFG 47) deployed in the eastern Pacific Ocean, joined fellow sailors and partner nation forces in seizing a vessel carrying nearly 4,850 pounds of cocaine, with an estimated street value of more than $363 million. The chase and interdiction in Colombian territorial waters occurred as part of Operation Martillo, a U.S., European and Western Hemisphere nations’ effort targeting illicit trafficking routes in coastal waters along the Central American isthmus. “Martillo” is the Spanish word for “hammer.”

Kerri E. Slade ’08 recently completed the eight-week U.S. Navy basic training program at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., as a Navy Seaman recruit.

Jeremy Bustin ’09 received a Master of Professional Studies in strategic public relations from George Washington University on May 20, 2012.

Jim Redick ('09 M.P.A.) was a panelist for the Business Continuity Planning program of a Cox Hampton Roads Executive Discussion Series seminar in June. The theme of the discussion was the various disruptions — in addition to disasters — that can cripple a business, and how to do business continuity planning. Redick is director of emergency preparedness and response for the city of Norfolk.

Navy Seaman Jacky Harris D. Mayoan ’09 recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. The eight-week program included practical skills training and classroom studies such as naval customs, safety instruction and physical fitness and culminated in “Battle Stations,” where recruits apply the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet.

Michael McCormick ’09 has put his mechanical engineering degree to work “where dreams come true,” at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Michael took a break from work on his master’s in aerospace engineering to accept an internship and now, a job as a mechanical engineer in show systems design with Disney Corp. One of his projects involved Disney Japan, says his proud mother and ODU alum Debbie McCormick ’88, who has owned an interior design business in the Philadelphia area for 28 years.

Kristin H. Conrad (D.N.P., ’11) has been elected president of the Virginia affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. Kristin continues to practice full scope midwifery at Carilion Clinic in Blacksburg, Va.

Jordan W. Kelmar ’12 was recently commissioned as an ensign, advancing from Navy midshipman, after receiving his bachelor of arts degree. He was selected to attend naval aviator training in Pensacola, Fla.

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NEW MONARCHS

Cynthia Grechanik ’81 and her husband, Charles Brown, are happy to announce the birth of their first granddaughter, Hanako Sophia Brown, in Honolulu in November 2011.

Brian Snow ’03 and Rebecca (Davis) Snow ’04 are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Madison Riley. She was born Nov. 10, 2011, in Raleigh, N.C.

Sarah Bertrand ’07 and Timothy Bertrand proudly announce the birth of a baby boy, Connor Scott. He was born March 31, 2012, in Bon Secours-DePaul Medical Center. The Bertrands currently reside in Virginia Beach.

MARRIED MONARCHS

Tracy Griffin ’94 and Jayson Grogan announce their marriage on Oct. 8, 2011, at Salem Glen Golf and Country Club in Clemmons, N.C. They currently reside in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Genji Katsuki ’05 and Shelley Sullivan Katsuki (M.S., ’09) were married Sept. 17, 2011, in Bowie, Md. More than a dozen alumni attended the ceremony. The couple currently resides in Middlesex County, Va. Shelley is employed as a laboratory specialist for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Genji works as a tugboat engineer for Vulcan Materials.

Megan Gleason ’08 and Andrew Gallagher were married on April 14, 2012, at The Founder’s Inn and Spa in Virginia Beach. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii in June and currently reside in Portsmouth.
IN MEMORIAM

Rev. George B. Holmes Sr. ’36 of Browns Summit, N.C., 5/31/12
Malvina B. Huggins ’36 of Virginia Beach, 2/25/12
William G. Temple Jr. ’38 of Virginia Beach, 1/25/12
Col. Richard J. Scherberger, USA (Ret) ’39 of Norfolk, 4/19/12
Freda S. Schwartz ’39 of Norfolk, 5/4/12
Thomas J. Crooks Jr. ’40 of Virginia Beach, 1/13/12
Bernard Levin ’41 of Portsmouth, 2/20/12
James B. Macon ’41 of Williamsburg, 12/29/11
Earl H. Odell ’45 of Newport News, 11/27/11
Alice jetty Dyck ’47 of Virginia Beach, 12/17/11
Dr. N. Patrick Moore ’47 of Norfolk, 1/3/12
L. Charles Burlage Sr. ’48 of Richmond, Va., and Virginia Beach, 12/26/11
Victor G. Geddin ’48 of Kill Devil Hills, N.C., 2/19/12
Edward L. Gray Jr. ’48 of Chesapeake, 4/1/12
Charles K. jetty Sr. ’49 of Virginia Beach, 4/15/12
Harold S. Whitehurst ’49 of Virginia Beach, 4/13/12
Charlotte Dunn Apperson ’50 of Norfolk, 2/22/12
John A. D. Boone Jr. ’50 of Norfolk, 4/15/12
Joseph L. Hendricks Jr. ’50 of Norfolk, 1/4/12
William W. Callahan ’51 of Norfolk, 5/13/12
Phyllis A. Davidson ’51 of Norfolk, 4/2/12
Rev. William R. Martin ’51 of Richmond, Va., 12/22/11
Gabrielle R. Jolemore ’52 of Cocoa Beach, Fla., 4/24/12
Darlene B. Waters ’52 of Norfolk, 2/16/12
Peter G. Decker Jr. ’56 of Norfolk, 2/3/12
Robert J. Morris ’56 of Pineturt, N.C., 1/5/12
Barbara R. Craig ’57 of Norfolk, 5/19/12
Dr. Samuel V. Russo ’57 of Portsmouth, 2/27/12
Arthur E. Jackson Jr. ’58 of Portsmouth, 5/24/12
Master Sgt. John R. Zartman Jr., USMC (Ret) ’58 of Virginia Beach, 2/13/12
Margaret R. Sullivan ’59 of Norfolk and Virginia Beach, 4/4/12
Styvia Kent Schmanska ’59 of Hampton, 8/27/11
Lewis H. Bridges Jr. ’60 of Virginia Beach, 5/15/12
Maxine H. Cochran ’61 (M.S. Ed. ’67) of Virginia Beach, 4/3/12
Emma Liles Nelson ’63 of Virginia Beach, 1/12/12
James C. Wirt ’63 of Norfolk, 5/28/12
William G. Cannon Jr. ’64 (M.S. Ed. ’73) of Virginia Beach, 4/27/12
Roderick D. Vincent Jr. ’64 of Grand Junction, Colo., 2/7/12
John W. Baggett ’66 of Norfolk, 2/3/12
Franz. O. Benson Jr. ’66 (M.S./B80) of Virginia Beach, 4/13/12
Mag. George L. Haggerty, USMC (Ret) ’66 of Newport News, 12/10/11
John R. Peters Sr. ’66 of Virginia Beach, 4/3/12
Prince Albert Edwards Jr. ’67 of Norfolk, 1/11/12
Joan M. Evans ’67 of Portsmouth, 3/27/12
Dorothy R. Robinson ’67 of Henrico, N.C., 12/2/11
Gerald “Jerry” VanStory ’68 of Wyhotel Plantation, S.C., 8/20/11
Arlene M. Wolin ’68 of Norfolk, 2/6/12
Lt. Col. Edward R. Ettner Jr., USA (Ret) ’69 of Mason Neck, Va., 4/11/12
Clare W. Nesson ’69 of Norfolk, 5/7/12
Styvaston Jones (M.A.) of Suffolk, 1/17/12
W. Stephen Pullen ’70 of Williamsburg, 4/22/12
Patricia “Gail” Jones Vance ’70 of Virginia Beach, 1/15/12
Unity C. Bailey (M.S. Ed. ’71) of Suffolk, 2/5/12
Charles E. Hatch III ’71 of Pennington, N.J., 4/26/12
John Lawrence Thompson ’71 of Orlando, Fla., and formerly of Norfolk, 2/27/11
Alphonso B. Downing ’72 of Suffolk, 2/15/12
Raymond M. Lowery ’72 of Chesapeake, 4/4/12

Allen P. Martinson ’72 of Norfolk, 12/13/11
Sharon S. Monk ’72 of Chesapeake, 4/6/12
Cheryl G. Morris ’72 (M.S. Ed. ’81) of Hampton, 4/23/12
Shirley V. Parrish (M.A. ’73) of Virginia Beach, 4/16/12
Lt. Cmdr. George H. Sutcliffe, USN (Ret) ’72 (M.S. Ed. ’78) of Norfolk, 1/25/12
Curtis A. Farrance ’73 of Chocowinity, N.C., 1/31/12
Charles E. Foreman ’73 of Virginia Beach, 1/5/12
J. Curtis Fruit ’73 of Virginia Beach, 2/27/12
Elise S. Weaver ’73 of Norfolk, 1/3/12
Helen S. Bufferin (M.S. Ed. ’74) of Suffolk, 2/15/12
Michael P. Campbell ’74 of Salem, Va., 4/6/12
Marinette M. Hite ’74 of Seabrook, S.C., 2/2/12
Elizabeth L. Kenworthy ’74 of Norfolk, 4/15/12
Joseph A. Stupka, III ’75 of Virginia Beach, 12/5/11
Lt. Cmdr. Vernon K. “Pete” Turner, USN (Ret) ’75 of Virginia Beach, 5/15/12
Lt. Cmdr. Joe C. Curtis Jr., USN (Ret) ’76 of Norfolk, 2/7/12
Robert M. Simon ’76 of Virginia Beach, 3/21/11
Gayle D. Whittaker ’76 of Chesapeake, 2/2/12
Janice H. Whiting ’76 of Gloucester Va., 1/9/12
Charlotte Y. Carson (M.S. Ed. ’77) of Virginia Beach, 2/27/12
Sheila A. Kelly ’77 of Alexandria, Va., 4/6/12
Regina Reeder ’77 (M.P.A. ’88) of Norfolk, 2/20/12
Helen C. Lewter (M.S. Ed. ’78) of Chesapeake, 5/16/12
Jess P. Belcher ’79 (M.A. ’83) of Virginia Beach, 5/14/12
Elizabeth G. Everett ’79 (M.P.A. ’95) of Chesapeake, 5/11/12
Ann Horton M. March (M.S. Ed. ’79) of Suffolk, 4/26/12
Carol J. (CJ) Omelian ’79 of Denver, Colo., 1/2/12
Elizabeth L. Pappas ’79 of Portsmouth, 2/24/12
Monica T. Davis (‘80) of Stafford, Va., 5/23/12
Patricia G. Taur ’81 of Angyle, Texas, 2/11/12
Michelle Y. (Jennings) Frazier ’82 of Suffolk, 5/6/12
Donald P. Williams ’83 of Norfolk, 5/25/12
Emanuel Meyer (M.A. ’84) of Virginia Beach, 1/6/12
Terri S. Chapman ’85 of Chesapeake, 4/14/12
Gregory D. Greenhawk ’85 of Norfolk, 12/10/11
Francis N. Crenshaw (86 H) of Norfolk, 1/26/12
Aubrey D. Stovall ’88 of Chesapeake, 5/8/12
Cmdr. Joanne Muldowney Reese, USN (Ret) (M.S. Ed. ’89) of Tamuning, Guam, 11/21/11
Renee N. Swiger ’91 of Jarratt, Va., 12/30/11
Mary L. Fentress ’92 of West Palm Beach, Fla., 2/17/12
Rudilita L. Fronda ’92 of Virginia Beach, 4/7/12
Kevin M. Stargell (M.B.A. ’93) of Millinatin, Va., 1/12/12
Elizabeth A. Conner ’94 of Virginia Beach, 2/25/12
Frank Hardly Jr. ’95 of Newport News, 1/21/12
Lt. Cmdr. Roger A. Dowle, USN (Ret) (M.S. Ed. ’96) of Virginia Beach, 1/25/12
Christina D. Gabriel ’96 (M.S. Ed. ’96) of Norfolk, 1/19/12
Capt. Joseph J. “J” George Jr., USN (Ret) (M.B.A. ’96) of Hot Springs, Va., and formerly of Norfolk, 12/21/11
Rosemary E. Larkin ’96 of Chesapeake, 12/3/11
David A. Osisek (M.P.T. ’96) of Virginia Beach, 12/29/11
Patricia Traugott Roase (’97H) of Columbia, Mâ., 3/3/12
Mary K. “Shannon” Reed (M.S. Ed. ’98) of Dunham, N.C., 5/6/12
Anne Pennington Pearcy (M.S. ’99) of Chesapeake, 12/25/11
Heather A. Reynolds (M.S. Ed. ’01) of Chesapeake, 4/1/12
Maria L. LoPresto ’07 (M.P.A. ’11) of Norfolk, 4/5/12
Darlene Smith Johnson ’08 of Steling, Va., 4/11/12
David M. Meyer ’12 of Chesapeake, 5/4/12
In Remembrance

Allen K. Clark

Allen K. Clark, professor emeritus of chemistry and biochemistry at Old Dominion University, died March 7 in Norfolk. He was 78.

Clark was born in Bridgeton, N.J. Immediately after receiving a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of North Carolina in 1960, Clark joined the faculty of Old Dominion as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1962 and full professor in 1966.

He served ODU as acting chair and chair of the Department of Chemistry from 1968 to 1972. He then moved into positions in the Provost’s Office, and eventually became deputy vice president for academic affairs from 1980 to 1983.

Clark played a pivotal role in the organic chemistry sequence as well as the freshman chemistry course. As a co-author with Professor Emeritus Charles Bell, Clark published a modern laboratory manual for the sophomore organic chemistry laboratory in 1997. Each year, Clark received some of the highest ratings from undergraduate students. In 1993, he received the university’s Alan Rufus Tonelson Faculty Award.

He enjoyed his association with his students, serving as adviser to the Pre-Med and Pre-Dent clubs, the student affiliates of the American Chemical Society and the Circle K Club of Kiwanis. In addition to numerous campus committees, he also served as university marshal from 1986 until his retirement in 1998.

Clark also volunteered in the community, including service as a lay leader at Larchmont United Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday school for more than 40 years; and as chairman of the Ski-Co-Ak District of the Boy Scouts of America. He was a longtime member of the Norfolk Kiwanis Club, served as president and on the board of directors, and was awarded the Kiwanis Club’s highest honor, the Hixon Medal, in 2008.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Helen Norris Hunter Clark, and his sons, Norman (Carol) and Jonathan (Sandra), and four grandchildren. The family wishes to thank all his caregivers from Senior Corps and the nurses and aides at Autumn Care for all their dedicated care.

Francis Nelson Crenshaw

Francis Nelson ("Frank") Crenshaw, 89, of Norfolk, a nationally recognized attorney and former rector and member of the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors, died Jan. 26, 2012, at Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital surrounded by his family.

He was predeceased by his first wife of 44 years, Jane Elizabeth Treadwell Crenshaw; and is survived by his current wife, Anne Alfriend Abbott Crenshaw.

In 1939, Crenshaw enrolled at the University of Virginia. After the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Crenshaw accelerated his college courses and graduated from U.Va. in December 1942. He then entered the U.S. Navy, serving primarily on the destroyer U.S.S. Patterson in the Pacific until the end of the war. He was awarded the Bronze Star, with four clusters.

In June 1946, Crenshaw returned to U.Va. and earned his law degree in 1948. He joined a law firm in Norfolk in 1950 that evolved into Crenshaw, Ware & Martin in 1989. Frank retired from active practice in 1997.

Crenshaw served as general counsel for the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority for more than 40 years. In 1986, he received the first-ever Distinguished Counsel Award of the National Association of Housing Support Your Alma Mater

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and Redevelopment Officials. He also practiced civil law, primarily in the field of admiralty and maritime law.

Crenshaw took an active role in the community, serving on the Norfolk School Board for eight years, three as chairman. His chairmanship coincided with the state's Massive Resistance efforts to close the Norfolk schools, and Frank was instrumental in re-opening of the schools as integrated entities. Later, he was appointed by the governor to serve eight years on the Board of Visitors of ODU, serving as rector for three years.

Frank Crenshaw and Jane had three daughters: Elizabeth C. Ford (John) of St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands; Page C. Burke (Bryan) of Lynchburg, Va.; and Marian C. Thomas (Frank) of Norfolk.

Crenshaw was stepfather to Anne Abbitt Crenshaw's sons, John M. Abbitt, III, Robert B. Abbitt, James B. Abbitt and Jeffrey A. Abbitt.

Patricia Traugott Rouse

Patricia “Patty” Traugott Rouse, a former member of the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors and co-founder of The Enterprise Foundation, now Enterprise Community Partners, died March 5, 2012, at Vantage House in Columbia, Md. She was 85.

She and her late husband, Jim Rouse, established The Enterprise Foundation in 1982 to ensure that every person living in America has a decent, affordable home. It is headquartered in Columbia, Md., the city that was developed by her husband.

“Enterprise is forever indebted to Patty, our visionary co-founder, for her unwavering commitment and the groundbreaking legacy she has left the affordable housing and community development industry,” said Terri Ludwig, president and CEO of Enterprise Community Partners.

Born to Albert and Myrtle Traugott, Patty Rouse was the youngest of two children and raised in Norfolk. In her youth, she volunteered at the local hospital and served as an airplane spotter for enemy aircraft during World War II. She graduated magna cum laude from Sweet Briar College in 1948 with a degree in British history. When she met Jim Rouse, she was working on a graduate degree in urban studies at ODU. She received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from ODU in 1997.

Throughout her career, Patty Rouse was appointed to several boards and received many prestigious awards for her local and national contributions to the affordable housing and community development industry. In addition to serving on the ODU board, she was on the board of directors of the Commission on National and Community Service; the first female Commissioner of the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority and a founding member of the President's Circle of Habitat of Humanity. She received the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Hubert Humphrey Human and Civil Rights Award and was named the 1998 Housing Person of the Year by the National Housing Conference.

She was predeceased by her youngest son, Thomas Cornick Rixey. Survivors include her sister Mary Perkins Traugott Brown of Virginia Beach; sons J. Barbour Rixey and his wife Louise of Virginia Beach; and John F. Rixey Jr. and his wife Celeste of Annapolis, Md.; her daughter Maria Rixey Gamper and her husband Dick of Baltimore; and nine grandchildren.

Jean Halladay

Jean Halladay, Old Dominion University associate professor emerita of English, died Feb. 16, 2012.

She joined the faculty in 1965 as an assistant professor and retired in 1997. Halladay made many contributions, especially in the areas of undergraduate instruction, student advising and university service, in her 32 years at ODU. During her tenure, she published a number of articles on Victorian writers as well as bibliographical pieces on American women. Her crowning work is the 1993 book “Eight Late Victorian Poets Shaping the Artistic Sensibility of an Age.”

“Jean Halladay will readily recall her quick wit, her generous nature, her no-nonsense demeanor and her munmum dresses. “Speaking personally, as a junior faculty member, I adored her,” Heller added. “Our thoughts are with Jean's family and her many friends.”

Halladay received a B.S. in English in 1953 from Utica College of Syracuse University, an M.S. in English in 1955 from the University of Iowa and a Ph.D. in Victorian literature in 1963 from the University of Kentucky.

James Hendry

James Davie Hendry, associate professor emeritus of electrical engineering technology at Old Dominion, died March 9, 2012. He was 83.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Juanita Busen Hendry of Catonsville, Md.; sons Michael and James (Lorraine); daughter, Ginny; daughter-in-law, Kathleen; six grandchildren and two great-grandsons. He was predeceased by his son Stephen.

Hendry enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1946 and spent 27 years rising through the ranks from seaman to commander. He retired in 1972. He was a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., and earned a master's degree in electrical engineering from ODU.

Hendry joined the ODU faculty in 1978 and taught electrical engineering technology for 10 years. He was promoted to associate professor in 1984. He served on the College of Engineering and Technology Scholarship Committee, including five years as chair. He also served on the Exit Writing Examination Committee and on the Faculty Senate.

During his time on the faculty, Hendry was a consultant to local industries and was active in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He received an international IEEE Outstanding Branch Counselor/Adviser Award in 1986 and the Virginia Council Outstanding Service Award in 1988.

Since moving to Catonsville in 1988, he stayed active at the Renaissance Institute at the University of Notre Dame of Maryland, the IEEE and the National Electronics Museum. He was a stained-glass artist, skilled woodworker and recorder of family history.

Donald H. Rimer

Donald H. Rimer, 65, who trained police officers from throughout the commonwealth as an adjunct professor at Old Dominion University, passed away Jan. 21, 2012. He retired in 2005 from the Virginia Beach Police Department, having served for 34 years.

Rimer attended Cameron University, Oklahoma State University and ODU. He began his career as a firefighter but switched to police work after coming to Hampton Roads. He graduated first in his class from the Tidewater Police Academy in 1971 and joined the Virginia Beach Police Department. In 1976 he was assigned to the newly formed Tidewater Regional Police Academy where he trained hundreds of new police officers and taught as an adjunct professor at ODU.

In the 1980s, Rimer established himself as an internationally known authority on ritual crime and the occult. Together with researchers in ODU’s College of Health Sciences, he published “The School Nurse’s Role with Vulnerable Goth Teens: Psychosocial Risks” in the Journal of School Nursing in 2008. After retirement he traveled extensively and spoke to conferences throughout the country, and worked with the Virginia Gang Investigators Association.

Rimer was an active member of Virginia Beach United Methodist Church and its Voyager Sunday school class, and served on the board of Seton Youth Shelters, a home for boys and girls.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Gene P. Rimer; a daughter, Kristin R. Sheely (Matt); a son, the Rev. Scott M. Rimer (Kimberlel) and a granddaughter, Kenley Grace Sheely.
Most of you probably are aware of our announcement in May that ODU is joining Conference USA following the conclusion of our 2012-13 sports season. Our move follows an onslaught of conference alignment that has seen more than 35 schools changing leagues in the past two years. The vast majority of the shift in conferences is directly due to football, and specifically, television revenue and automatic qualification for the Bowl Championship Series (BCS).

As we anticipated, the Colonial Athletic Association announced in June that ODU’s athletic teams will not be eligible to compete for CAA championships in the coming year as a result of our decision to change conferences. Our sports all remain eligible for NCAA post-season competition through at-large bid selections, but not through automatic qualification as conference champions.

ODU student-athletes can continue to qualify for post season in men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s tennis, and men’s and women’s swimming through qualifying tournaments and individual performances. Wrestling will be able to compete at the CAA championship for individual qualification for the NCAA championship, but not for the conference team championship.

C-USA does not offer championships in four of our current sports programs, including field hockey, women’s lacrosse, wrestling and men’s swimming. We are aggressively pursuing opportunities for these sports to compete as associate members with other quality conferences for 2013-14 and beyond.

When I was hired two years ago as athletic director, it was conveyed to me that one of my primary roles was to protect and guide our program in the ever changing landscape of college athletics. While I had no idea at the time that change would come so quickly, the volatility of the past few months led us to conclude that the time was now to position ODU and our athletic programs for the future.

Football played a key role in our decision. The loss of five football members in the CAA in the past two years, including Hofstra and Northeastern which dropped the sport, Rhode Island moving to the NEC, and Georgia State and Massachusetts reclassifying to the FBS level, was a concern for the future of our football program in the Colonial.

We needed to protect our football program as well as ensure that all of our 16 sports programs could continue to compete at the highest level.

It was imperative to President John Broderick, our Board of Visitors and me that our students not be taxed with additional fees and tuition hikes to support any conference move or reclassification of football. The funding for our C-USA move will come totally from existing athletic funds, anticipated increased revenues from C-USA financial distributions, ticket sales, corporate sponsorships and donor support.

Highly regarded and nationally successful, C-USA is considered one of the top football conferences in America, with high conference RPI recognition in men’s basketball, baseball, men’s and women’s tennis, men’s and women’s golf, and men’s and women’s soccer. For most of our sports, C-USA represents a higher level of competition. The league’s financially lucrative national television package with ESPN, Fox Sports and the CBS Sports Network will frequently expose our student athletes and the university to national television audiences and expand the ODU brand throughout the United States.

Critical for us in joining C-USA was the ability to reclassify our football program to the highest NCAA competition level, placing us at the table in every national discussion, and move the majority of our 16 intercollegiate sports to new levels and opportunities.

Additionally, this move makes ODU the only other Virginia school to be in the same athletic classification as the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech, serving to elevate our profile within the commonwealth among the 14 Division 1 intercollegiate programs.
By the same token, there were numerous factors that led to C-USA’s interest in us, and ultimately our invitation to join the league. These factors included 1) our vibrant university and its outstanding academic programs and achievements, 2) the phenomenal start-up success of our football program, 3) our passionate, enthusiastic and growing fan base of season ticket holders, 4) our strong corporate and private donor base, 5) the significance of the large metropolitan Hampton Roads market that is well known for its insatiable appetite for sports, and 6) the university’s world-class athletic facilities and the overall success of our total athletic program, illustrated by our 32 national championships.

I am very grateful to our coaches and student-athletes whose success has allowed us to make a conference move of this magnitude and to the generous support from our fans and the Hampton Roads community. We anticipate being sold out for the fourth straight year in football season tickets and have over 3,300 people on our waiting list. Much like the support we received when we started football, in the two weeks prior to making our C-USA announcement, 15 individuals committed $3 million in private support for our conference move and football reclassification, and we will continue to seek additional private and corporate donations. In addition, we are closing in on $5 million toward our goal of $8 million for a new, state-of-the-art basketball practice facility complex for our men’s and women’s teams.

We are pleased to be joining our fellow members in Conference USA including new members, UNC Charlotte, Florida International, Louisiana Tech, North Texas and Texas San Antonio, along with Marshall, East Carolina, Alabama Birmingham, Southern Mississippi, Tulane, Rice, Tulsa and Texas El Paso. ODU teams will be competing regularly in major metropolitan areas such as Miami, Dallas, Houston, Charlotte, San Antonio and New Orleans. We look forward to welcoming the fans and student-athletes of our new conference foes to our campus in the near future and showing the C-USA the great spirit and support from our Monarch fans.

National Stage Comes Faster Than Expected for ODU Football; Details of Conference Shift

W hen Old Dominion University announced in 2006 that it was planning to start football, there was a popular view that if the football team was successful, it would aspire to compete at the highest level of college competition, the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Nobody expected it to happen this fast.

After just three seasons, ODU’s football program, along with 11 of its other sports, is joining Conference USA, a conference that was losing three of its own members to the Big East in football-related conference relocations. At the same time, there were suggestions that non-football-playing Colonial Athletic Association members George Mason and Virginia Commonwealth were considering a move to the Atlantic 10 Conference (a move VCU would actually make in May).

“While Old Dominion was not actively seeking new opportunities, the dynamic shifts happening across the country brought several to our attention,” said ODU President John R. Broderick.

On May 17, at a gathering at S.B. Ballard Stadium, the change in conference affiliation was announced. ODU would leave its longtime home in the CAA and join Conference USA beginning July 1, 2013. Old Dominion will join Virginia and Virginia Tech as the only state schools to compete at the Football Bowl Subdivision level.

The move will raise the university’s profile, but it won’t come on the backs of students. School officials have pledged not to raise student fees to pay the additional $2.5 million to $3 million in annual operating expenses that will accompany the move, expenses that will partly come from the additional 20 football scholarships for FBS teams, along with a new women’s sport to maintain gender equity among ODU’s athletic programs.

The additional expenses will be offset by increased ticket revenue, donations, corporate sponsorships, and TV and revenue-sharing payouts from C-USA, Selig said. ODU has sold out every game in three years at Foreman Field. But with new conference rivals like East Carolina playing in stadiums more than double ODU’s size, it’s possible the stadium could be expanded.

In 2011, three C-USA teams were ranked in the nation’s Top 25 polls and five competed in bowls, earning the league more than $4.5 million in pay-outs. The conference has seven bowl tie-ins with the AutoZone Liberty Bowl, Beef ‘O’ Brady’s St. Petersburg Bowl, Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, Military Bowl, R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, Sheraton Hawaii Bowl and the Ticket City Bowl.

In all sports, C-USA teams and individuals have made nearly 700 NCAA championship appearances since the league’s inception in 1995-96. Sixty-seven football programs have earned bowl bids, 90 men’s basketball teams have participated in NCAA and NIT postseason play, 47 women’s basketball squads have appeared in the NCAA tournament and 53 baseball programs have made NCAA tournament appearances, including 12 College World Series and a national crown for Rice in 2003.

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Payoff Season for Fifth-Year Seniors

When Craig Wilkins was a standout linebacker in high school in Washington, D.C., many of his teammates and rivals were sifting through football scholarship offers from teams all over the Eastern United States.

Then Wilkins went and committed to a video.

“When I visited ODU, all they had was Foreman Field (being reconstructed) and a video. There was no football team yet,” said Wilkins, now a fifth-year senior and Monarch captain.

Regardless, Wilkins signed on the bottom line and became part of the charter class of 21 freshman Monarchs. They’re now seniors, and lead the Top 10-ranked Monarchs into a season with sky-high hopes. The program has grown faster than any observer expected, save for those in the Monarch locker room.

“It’s no surprise to us. We know how hard we worked, how together we were,” Wilkins said. “I heard from a lot of other programs, and coaches telling me, ‘Chances are, you won’t win a game your whole career there.’”

Boy, were those predictions wrong. After eight and nine-win seasons, the Monarchs entered play in the CAA last year and made the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs, beating local rival Norfolk State in the first round. Now the Monarchs enter their second and final CAA season, having announced a move to the Football Bowl Subdivision, the highest level of collegiate football in the country.

It seems miles away from the “500 days” of consecutive practices the charter class of football Monarchs signed up for five years ago.

“It was tough just lining up and hitting the guy across from you every day for a year,” said Chris Burnette, a defensive tackle from Baltimore. “We’d see the football schedule every week, they’d be talking about the big games, and I’d be, ‘Dang, I play myself again this weekend.’”

The first big payoff for all of that hard work came at ODU’s first home game against Campbell in 2009. Jonathan Plisco, ODU’s stellar senior punter, said the experience even exceeded his expectations, which had been building for more than a year. “The whole year you’re building up to it and it’s finally here. It was an unbelievable experience.”

Plisco grew up in Newport News, and knew about Old Dominion. But it was always in the absence of his chosen sport, football. Now that ODU’s football program has had such a smashing start, he said the perception of the school as a whole is changing. “People tell me all the time what a special thing we’ve got going over here. Just to see the effect the football team is having on the school, just to be a part of it, is really special.”

But the three seniors aren’t finished yet. There’s the unfinished business of the conference title that slipped away on a fluke play by Towson on Homecoming Day, and a 55-48 playoff loss to Georgia Southern that has motivated the team, especially the proud defense, every single day.

“We want to go out with a bang,” Burnette said.

The other members of ODU’s first four-year senior class include Alex Arain of Virginia Beach; Kai Blanco of Alexandria, Va.; Brandon Carr of Chesapeake; Michael Colbert of Fayetteville, N.C.; Fred Credle of Chesapeake; Robbie Duncan of Sterling, Va.; Chris Lovitt of Stafford, Va.; Nick Mayers of Virginia Beach; B.J. McLaughlin of Columbia, Va.; Bryan Morrison of Auburn, Va.; Carvin Powell of Chesapeake; Erik Saylor of Ijamsville, Md.; and Devon Simmons of Newport News.

The team opens the season against Duquesne on Sept. 1.
Follow
Monarch Football

ON TV: (check your local cable system)
Sept. 22 – noon – ODU vs. New Hampshire – Comcast SportsNet Regional
Oct. 27 – noon – ODU vs. Delaware – NBC Sports Network
Nov. 10 – noon – ODU vs. William & Mary – Comcast SportsNet Regional
Nov. 17 – 7 p.m. – ODU at James Madison – NBC Sports Network

ON RADIO:
All games air live on ESPN Radio 94.1 FM with Voice of the Monarchs Ted Alexander and Color Analyst Andy Mashaw, beginning one hour prior to kick off.

ON THE INTERNET:
All home games video-streamed live at ODUSports.com
Radio broadcasts of all away games streamed live at ODUSports.com

ON MOBILE DEVICES:
Download the free “ODU In-Game” app available for your iPhone, iPad, and Android. The app features real-time play-by-play of all Monarch home games, the ability to connect with fans on social media, and the latest information on promotions and giveaways.

COORS LIGHT BOBBY WILDER COACH’S SHOW:
Join Coach Wilder and Voice of the Monarchs Ted Alexander every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Buffalo Wild Wings in Downtown Norfolk or listen live on ESPN Radio 94.1 FM or on ODUSports.com.

WEEKLY BOBBY WILDER PRESS CONFERENCE:
Video from Coach Wilder’s weekly press conference is available every Monday on ODUSports.com.
Letter from Vice President
BUILDING A LEGACY OF SUCCESS

As I began my career at Old Dominion University, just one year ago, to lead the new Division of Student Engagement & Enrollment Services (SEES), I was honored to join a vibrant community focused on student success. I have been delighted to experience firsthand the collaboration and commitment of faculty and staff helping students become successful at ODU.

Our vision in SEES is to assist every current and future Monarch with achieving success. And our mission is to engage every student in a meaningful way across our campus from the point of first contact through alumni status, as well as to partner with our academic colleagues to offer learning outside of the classroom.

Since joining the Monarch family, I have marveled at our student leaders and their passion for supporting the traditions of ODU. The Student Government Association, in partnership with the Division of Student Engagement & Enrollment Services, has put forward a campaign of Monarch Citizenship embodied in REP ODU (Respect, Engagement and Pride). This initiative will assist our students in strengthening the legacy and traditions that make ODU special. In true Monarch spirit, our students, alumni, faculty and staff represent a rich tapestry of diversity that constitutes the very strength and uniqueness of the ODU experience.

This is an exciting time as new students—freshmen, transfer students, military personnel, the veteran community and graduate students—come here from Virginia, across the United States, and from 62 countries around the world. These latest Monarchs come to ODU from different cultures and locations, and many will participate in their education in different ways from our traditional students living on the Norfolk campus or our local non-traditional students balancing school and work. Many will engage in their classes and conduct their research at our regional higher education centers. There will also be students who take classes at sites around the country in virtual classrooms and through digital collaboration.

As these new students become a part of ODU, they will create a patchwork quilt of college experiences and opportunities. They will build on the rich legacy that is Old Dominion and will become a part of a larger community committed to the ODU culture of responsibility, engagement and Monarch pride. They will sustain and enhance the ODU tradition in this transformational time for our University. Their energy and commitment can already be seen in their participation in our Monarch Service Day or Freshman Summer Leadership Institute before their classes even begin.

Student Engagement & Enrollment Services will continue to celebrate the unique contributions, similarities and differences of all Monarchs. We look forward to working with each student throughout the semester, throughout their college career and beyond their graduation to achieve their personal development and professional accomplishments.

-Dr. Ellen Neufeldt
Vice President for Student Engagement & Enrollment Services
Ed ’74 and Linda ’71 Bradley spent their careers as juvenile probation officers (JPO). At that time, the innovative Norfolk Juvenile Court was exposing adolescents to family and group counseling, athletic, cultural, and outdoor adventures. “The jobs were stressful, and many of these individuals were runaways, truants, and repeat offenders. It was tough watching them get deeper into the court system,” Linda said. “We just wanted to help.”

The Bradleys were among a group of JPOs who accompanied troubled youths on weekend camping trips to hike and canoe in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Many had never been outside Norfolk...had never experienced the peace and beauty of different terrains...had never heard the sound of water lapping at a canoe.

Ed recalled one particular trip when they left late after work, drove four hours, and then took the group for a hike. “All along the way they complained, complained, complained. When we reached the overlook, we saw a majestic sunset — probably the most beautiful we’ve ever seen. There was complete silence. The young adults just stood there with their mouths open. Nature can work its magic on anyone,” Ed said.

After receiving an M.S. degree in 1979 from ODU in guidance and counseling, Linda continued as a JPO in the Domestic Unit. Ed became the executive director of the Friends of the Norfolk Juvenile Court in 1985, working with volunteers and staff to assist with the case loads of children and families who come to court. After eight years, he was drawn back to casework.

In 1995, looking for different challenges, both Ed and Linda returned to school — Linda in massage therapy and Ed in horticulture. Remembering the impact that the mountain trips had on the adolescents, Ed jointly established HELP, the Horticulture Enrichment Learning Program at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Working through the court, the program helped older at-risk youths reinvest in their education, improve their self-esteem, contribute to their communities by completing their community service obligations through gardening, and receive great satisfaction at the results.

After retiring in 2004, Linda and Ed became Master Gardeners. They now share their skills at such places as the Chesapeake Arboretum and ODU’s Tree Trail, where students and visitors enjoy the trees that have been planted on campus.

Ed smiles as he talks about the role that ODU has played in their lives and those of many family and friends. “After World War II, my father went to the Norfolk Division at night to further his education, and that opened up a civil service job for him.” Because they have experienced the power of education, the Bradleys have begun to endow a scholarship at ODU that will bear their names. When the death of Linda’s mother led them to confront their own mortality, they added an important gift through their wills that will expand their scholarship for future students.

For now, they continue to volunteer, while looking forward to hiking, biking, and listening to the sound of water lapping at their canoe as they travel Virginia’s tributaries. They say they are just ordinary people, trying to make a difference. Their lives of service, however, tell quite a different story, one of an extraordinary couple.

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
FALL CAMPUS EVENTS, ATTRACTIONS AND PERFORMANCES

September

10 Kenneth Thompkins, trombone recital, Chandler Recital Hall, 8 p.m. Tickets, $10 students, $15 general

18 President’s Lecture Series, Greg Gumbel, CBS sportscaster, Webb Center, 7:30 p.m.

23 Wind Ensemble Concert, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center atrium, 3 p.m.


15-Oct. 14 “Photographs With Teeth,” curator Greta Pratt of the ODU faculty; in conjunction with ODU’s 35th Annual Literary Festival, “Words With Teeth.” Reception Sept. 30, 3-5 p.m., for exhibition and kicking off the Literary Festival. Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries

October

1 Anthony Dean Griffey, four-time Grammy Award-winning American tenor, Chandler Recital Hall; 8 p.m. Tickets, $10 students, $15 general

1-6 “Words With Teeth,” 35th Annual Literary Festival Guest presenters include: Dustin Lance Black, Oscar-winning screenwriter of “Milk” and “J. Edgar,” 7:30 p.m. Oct. 2 (President’s Lecture Series), Webb Center; Allan Gurganus, author of the bestselling “Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All,” 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5, Chandler Recital Hall. The full schedule is at www.lib.odu.edu/lifest/35th/index.htm.

18 President’s Lecture Series, Rebecca Costa, author, “The Watchman’s Rattle,” Webb Center, 7:30 p.m.

November

5 “Nostalgie” performance featuring ODU faculty Andrey Kasparov and Oksana Lutsystyn with the Norfolk Chamber Consort, Chandler Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. Tickets $9 students, $22 general

8-10, 15-17 University Theatre presents “Orchids,” a musical play by Jeff Nisker, directed by Jenifer Alonzo; Goode Theatre; 8 p.m. (also 2 p.m. on Nov. 10); Tickets, $15 students, $20 general

11 “A Song for Heroes: Music of America,” ODU Concert Choir and Diehn Chorale, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center atrium, 3 p.m.

13 ODU Collegium Musicum and Madrigal Singers concert, Chandler Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

14-17 ODU Dance Theatre Fall Concert, University Theatre, 8 p.m. (also 2 p.m. on Nov. 17); Tickets $12 students, $14 general

27 ODU Jazz Choir and Jazz Ensemble concert, Chandler Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

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