

Summer 8-2020

Monarch Science Observer, Volume 5

College of Sciences, Old Dominion University

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Monarch Science OBSERVER

Summer 2020, Volume 5



ODU Scientists Excel

DURING THE SUMMER OF COVID-19 FACULTY, GRADUATE STUDENTS AND ALUMNI EXCEL AND CONTINUE TO LEAD RESEARCH PROJECTS THAT WILL MAKE GLOBAL IMPACTS

**ABOVE & BEYOND
FACULTY
AWARDS**

**ODU SCIENCE
EXPERTS
IN THE NEWS**

**PH.D. STUDENTS
EXCEL IN
RESEARCH**

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SCIENCES NEWSLETTER

Message from Dean Dodge

Summer 2020 is drawing to a close. For many faculty summer is a time of intense research activity, including spending extra time in the lab or field, preparing funding proposals, and writing journal papers. Of course, this summer brought extra challenges, including the necessity to rethink laboratory and field research to comply with social distancing rules and extra cleaning requirements. The occupancy of laboratory spaces was reduced, necessitating careful scheduling of graduate students, postdocs, and faculty. For some faculty and students, it made sense to continue working from home, catching up on manuscripts. Other students are trying to finish their research projects and graduate, so they were clamoring to get back to the lab as soon as they could.



In this newsletter we feature a few of the many interesting faculty and student research projects that we have been promoting on our web pages and on social media. You can also see five recent videos, including a sneak peek into the new Chemistry building, and a look at the research of Assistant Professor John Whiteman, who uses a deep sea submersible (Alvin) to study wood fall in the ocean and investigate animal nutrition. We also have stories on the research of three Ph.D. students.

We are proud to welcome 14 new faculty and 3 staff to the College of Sciences since January 2020. Ten faculty were honored as recipients of the Above and Beyond Faculty Award sponsored by the College of Sciences Advisory Board. Terri Mathews and Dayle Daines, both Associate Deans in the College of Sciences, retired over the summer. Finally, we mourn the passing of Physics Professor and Eminent Scholar Mark Havey.

I am pleased to introduce Dr. Joshua Wallach (pictured right) who has joined our office as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies. He has had his hands full helping us adapt our fall course schedule to the realities of reduced capacity in classrooms and changing student preferences for online versus on campus courses. He came to us from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry where he was a master lecturer. We are lucky to have him with us as we navigate the continually changing landscape of higher education.

Gail Dodge



Above & Beyond Faculty Awards

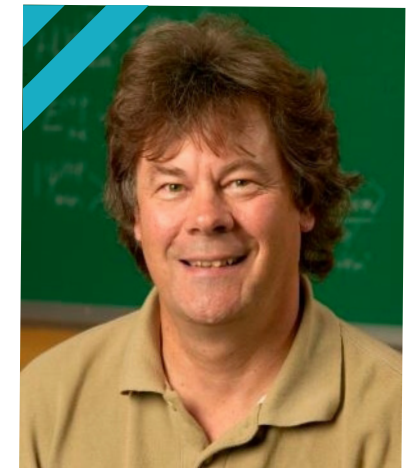
Congratulations to all of the 2020 Above and Beyond Faculty Award winners! This award is made possible because of the College of Sciences Advisory Board. To read the entire story click [here](#).



Dr. Bala Ramjee



Dr. Christina Steel



Dr. Desmond Cook



Dr. Gordon Melrose



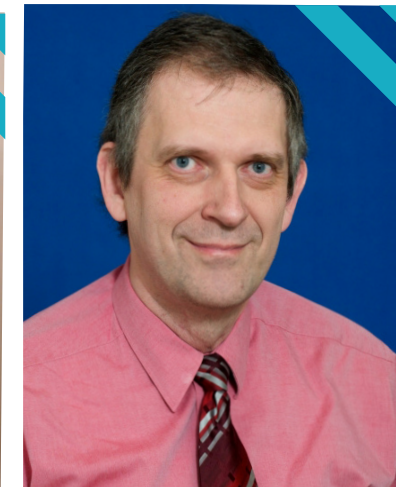
Ms. Jennifer Muth



Dr. Kalpana Mahadevan



Ms. Kayla Culbertson



Dr. Przemek Bogacki



Dr. Shannon Wells



Dr. Steve Zeil

ODU Science Experts in the News

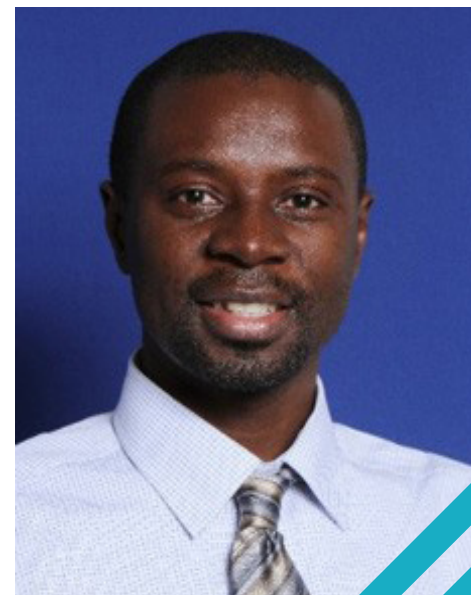


Old Dominion University faculty and students in the Department of Physics are working alongside scientists at Jefferson Lab and two area universities to unravel the secrets of quarks and gluons that carry the nuclear force. Read the full article [here](#).

Photo: (L-R) Madhusudhan Pokhrel, Ph.D. student, Sebastian Kuhn, Professor and Eminent Scholar in the Department of Physics, Jiwan Poudel, Ph.D. student and Mohammad Hattawy, Research Assistant Professor of Physics

Using mathematics and statistics to predict the number of new COVID-19 cases is what Norou Diawara is researching at Old Dominion University. “We are proposing a prediction of new cases performed on a weekly basis,” said Diawara, Professor of Statistics in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Read the full article [here](#).

Photo: (R) Norou Diawara, Professor Department of Mathematics & Statistics



Breaches in cyber security may compromise military missions. To address this issue, Dr. Jeremiah Still, an Assistant Professor at ODU in the Department of Psychology, and his doctoral student Janine Mator have partnered with MI Technical Solutions (MITS), a leader in cybersecurity technology. This partnership was recently awarded \$170,000 by the Coastal Virginia (CoVa) Center for Cyber Innovation to develop technology to address cybersecurity issues in the Department of Defense (DoD). Read the full article [here](#).

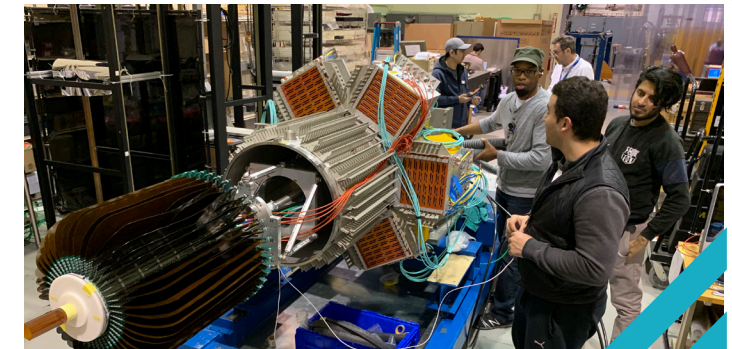
@ODUSCI on  YouTube

Virtual Tour New Chemistry Building



[Click here to watch “Take a sneak peek into the New Chemistry Building”](#)

Virtual Tour Physics Nuclear Facility



[Click here to watch “Virtual Tour of Nuclear Particle & Physics Research Facility”](#)

ODU & LUMCON Scientific Expedition



[Click here to watch John Whiteman, Assistant Professor in Biological Sciences research cruise](#)

Virtual Tour Kaplan Orchid Conservatory



[Click here to watch a virtual tour of the Kaplan Orchid Conservatory.](#)

Stop the Spread of COVID-19

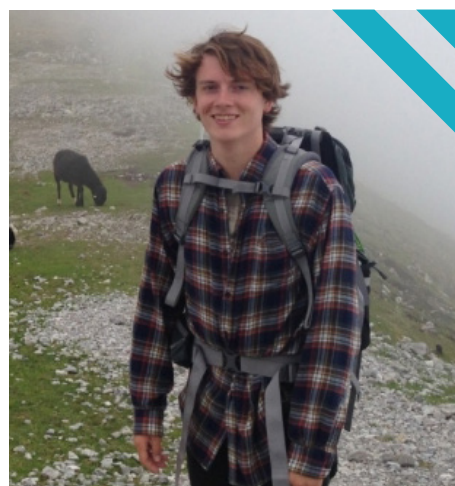


[Click here to watch “Stop the Spread of COVID”](#)

Ph.D. Students Excel in Research



Usually, when you think of data, you do not think of reusable data. Yasith Jayawardana, a Computer Science Ph.D. student at ODU, is exploring new ways to simplify the process of reusing data. He received the Sigma-Xi Grant in Aid of Research to help fund and produce his research project. Read the full article [here.](#)



Dr. Richard Zimmerman, Professor in Ocean and Earth Sciences, Brian Collister, OES Ph.D. student and researchers from the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences have discovered a new way of seeing into the sea's depths, an approach that allows them to detect algae blooms and measure key ocean properties using light. Read the full article [here.](#)



Kelly Romano, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Psychology at ODU, has always had an interest in both preventing the onset and improving the life functioning of individuals coping with eating disorders. Romano's research centers on the psychology of healthy eating, weight stigma, and health-related behavior change. Read the full article [here.](#)



Oumar Sacko, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, studies the optimization of biochar by ozone treatment surface modification for use in soil amendments. Recently, he and other chemistry graduate students published an important discovery in ACS Sustainable Chemistry and Engineering, a peer-review journal. Read the full article [here.](#)

Welcome to the College of Sciences New Faculty

Dr. Cassie Glenn, Assistant Professor, Psychology

Dr. Sönke Dangendorf, Assistant Professor, Department of Ocean and Earth Sciences

Mr. Wesley Davis, Lecturer, Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Dr. Emily Hardy, Lecturer, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Dr. Ian Katz, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Dr. Kyle Lambert, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Ms. Sherrie Mitchell, Lecturer, Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Dr. George Noell, Professor & Chair, Department of Psychology

Dr. Jeff Olenick, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Dr. Faryaneh Poursardar, Lecturer, Department of Computer Science

Dr. Taylor Sloey, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences

Dr. Joe Tamborski, Assistant Professor, Department of Department of Ocean and Earth Sciences

Dr. Fengjiao Wang, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science

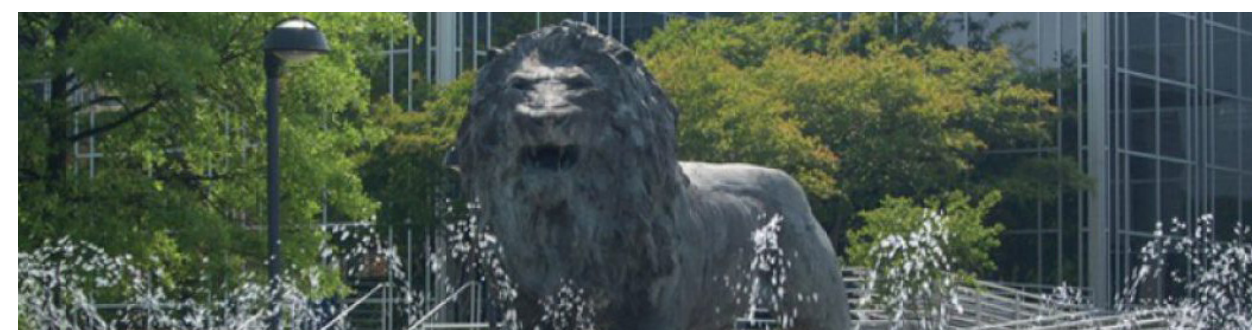
Dr. Erik Yando, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences

Welcome to the College of Sciences New Staff

Ms. Tamika Bota, Administrative Assistant, Department of OEAS

Ms. Elizabeth Lucas, Laboratory & Research Specialists I, Department of Biological Sciences

Ms. Paige Michel, Laboratory & Research Specialists I, Department of Biological Sciences



Retirements



Dr. Terri Matthews retired as Associate Dean in June 2020. She began at ODU in 1996, and her research centered around student success. “I developed a program for students on academic probation called LADDERS in the College of Sciences,” said Matthews. Using group meetings, the program helped students turn their academic records around. Also, she developed the Math Science Resource Center and along with Dr. Robert Wojtowicz, developed the First Year Experience which is a study abroad in Greece. Most recently, she served as co-chair of the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing event that was held in July, 2019 and worked with career services to host the first Opportunity Networking Event. She is enjoying retirement.



Dr. Dayle Daines retired as Associate Dean in July 2020. She came to ODU in 2012, and her research interests were focused in the biomedical sciences. The overall goal of her research was to understand and mitigate the effects of infectious diseases to improve the public health. She was awarded more than \$2.3M since 2009 to fund her projects. What she liked most about being at ODU was “working one-on-one with the students in my lab. “I very much enjoyed those “aha!” moments when the proverbial light bulb came on and a student understood a difficult concept or was able to integrate the facts they had learned into practice,” said Daines. A hobby making jewelry turned into a passion for making beautiful things. Check out her work on her Etsy shop [Daughter of Luna LLC](#).

Passing of Physics Professor



Dr. Mark D. Havey, Eminent Scholar in the Department of Physics at Old Dominion University died on July 19. He was 68. For 40 years, Havey made invaluable contributions to ODU undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and the global scientific community. Read the full obituary [here](#).

Monarch Science Observer

ODU College of Sciences Newsletter

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