

## DID YOU KNOW?

Old Dominion University's academic and professional preparation requirements for full-time and part-time faculty conform to the criteria established by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). According to the latest changes in this criteria, graduate teaching assistants who are teaching courses leading to a baccalaureate degree, must have completed at least 18 graduate semester hours, or have a master's degree in the discipline they will teach. Graduate teaching assistants must also receive regular in-service training, periodic evaluations, as well as have direct supervision by a faculty member experienced in the teaching area. If those criteria are met, the graduate teaching assistant may be the primary teacher of record in an undergraduate course within their discipline. Colleges select individuals to serve as TA's based on the individual needs of each department, as well as the specificities of the graduate program.



NAGPS 2014 National Board of Directors

## GSO REPS ATTEND CONFERENCE

On November 7th, Old Dominion University's Graduate Student Organization's (GSO) board members, Yasmine Farley (president), Raleta Summers (vice-president), Ange-Lionel Toba (secretary), and GSO member Kyle Danzey attended the 27th Annual Conference of the National Association for Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS), hosted at Western Michigan University. NAGPS is a national umbrella organization that aims to develop and sustain member networks that connect graduate and professional students across the country. Its mission is to provide students with an opportunity to share best practices and resources that empower member organizations as well as amplify students' voices in front of policymakers on all governmental levels. "For me, the opportunity to network with other universities member was priceless. The willingness to unite is very much present and the people are really eager to move forward," said Toba. He believes that going to this conference gives the GSO a clear idea of how to better prepare for next year's NAGPS regional conference, which will be hosted by Old Dominion University. During the conference, GSO's board members were elected as national and regional representatives: Yasmine Farley is the NAGPS National Employment Concerns Committee Chair, Raleta Summers is the Southeast

Region Chair, and Kyle Danzey is the Southeast Region Director of Outreach. These achievements place ODU in a leading position amongst other colleges who are members of NAGPS.

"The NAGPS conference was such an amazing opportunity to network with graduate students across the United States. Attending this conference was imperative to both my professional development but also in aiding how I, along with my executive board, lead the Graduate Student Organization," said GSO's president Farley. Earlier this semester, Farley also attended the Legislative Action Day in Washington DC as a GSO representative. Her role included advocating for continued and sustained funding for education, science, and research; reducing student loan debt, loan rates and bankruptcy, as well as open access to publicly-funded research. She discussed those issues with Abigail Gunderson, the Senior Legislative Assistant to Congressman Scott Rigell of Virginia's 2nd District.



Raleta Summers, Yasmine Farley, and Kyle Danzey

## ODU'S GRADUATE STUDENTS COLLABORATE WITH HEALTHY PORTSMOUTH

A weight-loss program launched earlier this year by Healthy Portsmouth, the City's health initiative, sought to use web and mobile technology to support residents' weight loss. More than 400 Portsmouth residents signed up to use the "Lose It" program. However, only a fraction of the participants have become active users of the app, which interested Dr. James Paulson, Associate Professor of Psychology at Old Dominion University. Throughout the semester, the seven graduate students in Dr. Paulson's Health Psychology class have worked in small teams on different aspects of the product analysis – looking at the technology used, the communications strategy, as well as the literature on weight loss interventions nationwide. The semester-long project's goal is a comprehensive report, which is to be presented to Healthy Portsmouth's program administrators, with suggestions on how to make the program run more effectively.

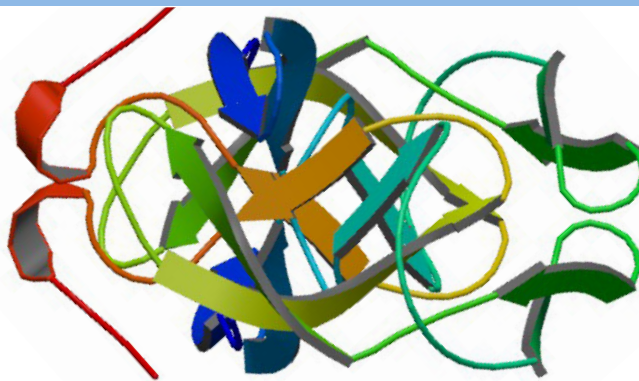


Image of HIV protein, courtesy of Dr. He

## BIOINFORMATICS AT ODU

Bioinformatics is an interdisciplinary field of study that develops methods for storing, retrieving, organizing and analyzing biological data. Computer Science, in the College of Sciences, is one of the most diverse and interdisciplinary oriented departments at Old Dominion University. Faculty and graduate students from the department of Computer Science often collaborate with various other departments such as: biology, mathematics, statistics, chemistry, oceanography, and engineering. Currently, ODU offers courses in introduction to bioinformatics, molecular dynamics, and molecular simulation amongst other relevant topics in the field of bioinformatics. According to Dr. Ranjan, Computer Science department chair, even though there is no specific degree program in bioinformatics offered at ODU, currently at least 10 computer sciences graduate students' area of research can be classified as bioinformatics and computational biology.

According to Dr. Jing He, associate professor in the department of Computer Science, bioinformatics is an exciting field

that directly impacts medicine, health, agriculture, and food production. "Protein structures allow people to see the atoms of the proteins and to understand how proteins work. Such insights can lead to targeted drug development, as supposed to the trial and error

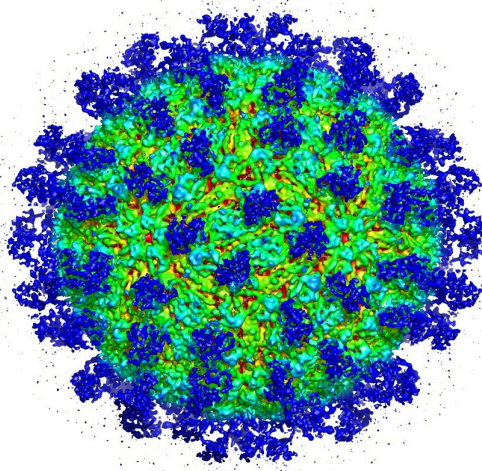


Image of Dengue virus, courtesy of Dr. He

type we have currently," said He. One way to study large protein assemblies, such as viruses, is by using low temperature imaging of proteins using an electron microscope. Dr. He worked collaboratively with Dr. El-sayed-Ali and Dr. Pakhomova at ODU and Dr. Howard and Dr. Galkin at EVMS to make low temperature imaging possible at ODU. Dr. He develops computational tools to derive

the atomic structures of proteins from the image data of the proteins. This type of information can inform biologists, such as Assistant professor Dr. Gauthier (Biology department), who is working on unveiling the genome of a microorganism that is killing fish in the Chesapeake Bay.

Dr. Yaohang, associate professor in the department of Computer Science, is another faculty member who works in the field of bioinformatics. "Professionals in the field of biology often use a lot of computer tools, so they are expecting their students to know some programming and know some computational aspects these tools," Yaohang said. According to him, students in the biological sciences need to know how to analyze the results of their experiments, which requires them to have a computer science perspective on how the tools and algorithms they use actually work. Students interested in bioinformatics are also encouraged to take classes in Modeling and Simulation, which can broaden their field of expertise even further.



Dr. Victoria Collins



## SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMS

Dr. Victoria Ellen Collins graduated from Old Dominion University with a PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice in August of this year. She is currently an assistant professor at Eastern Kentucky University. Dr. Collins moved to Norfolk, Virginia from England, where she first received her undergraduate degree in law. Due to differences in the law and educational systems, Dr. Collins decided to pursue a second undergraduate degree in criminal justice at ODU. "I really enjoyed Old Dominion University from the very beginning. The department was so welcoming, especially for somebody who is new to the country and the area," Collins said. After the completion of her undergraduate degree, Collins decided to gain some experience in the field. She worked as a Victim Advocate and Police Liaison in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Throughout her experiences, she worked with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. "Some of them were in immediate crisis just walking into the shelter," said Collins. Her job was in part, to go to court with those women, as well as

to speak to the FBI and the criminal attorney's office from the survivor's behalf. Collins also worked with different advocacy groups in Virginia Beach, such as the Military Advocacy Group. While she was still working, Collins started her Master's program in Applied Sociology at Old Dominion. "I was working and taking classes. At that time I didn't really know what would I do with a PhD, but I did know that I really enjoyed ODU, and I really liked the department and everybody who was involved with shaping me into somebody who might be interested in a PhD," Collins said. Throughout her PhD career, Collins worked closely with Dr. Dawn Rothe as well as Dr. Dianne Carmody from the department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Collins' dissertation research examined the processes involved in creating, implementing, and enforcing policy on maritime piracy in Somalia. Dr. Collins is an outstanding ODU alumna, and we are proud to celebrate her professional and academic successes.

## APPLY FOR GRADUATION

Application 2014 Deadlines for all students are as follows (6 months prior to graduation):

**May Graduation: due November 30, 2013**  
**August Graduation: due February 28, 2014**  
**December Graduation: due June 30, 2014**

Applications are processed online at LEO Online as quickly as possible, but it can take up to four weeks during peak times. Graduate students can also download and complete the [Application for Graduation](#) form (in PDF format), and submit it to the Registrar's Office via fax or email. This form can be completed online and printed with the Adobe Reader. Please note that these dates might differ from the dates for graduate commencement. For more information on graduate commencement, click [here](#).

## CHANGES IN STUDENT ACCOUNT PAYMENT POLICIES FOR THE SPRING 2014 SEMESTER

In an effort to control costs that impact students, Old Dominion University has contracted with a third party vendor, PayPath, to process all credit card transactions for tuition, room and board, and fees on student accounts.

Effective December 1, 2013

- The University's Cashier's Office will no longer accept credit card payments.
- ODU will begin accepting Discover and American Express for online payments.
- Students who pay using a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express) will be charged a 2.75% convenience fee.
- The University will begin accepting payments with a debit card.

There is no change in how you make payments online. You will continue to use Leonline and authorized users will continue to use Touchnet. If you have any questions about the new credit card convenience fee or any of our payment options, please visit the Office of Finance website <http://www.odu.edu/admission/costs-tuition/tuition/billing/payment-options> or email [tuition@odu.edu](mailto:tuition@odu.edu).

Netschtick.com is an innovative, movie commentary and promotion web page. The site was envisioned and developed by Old Dominion University's Lifespan and Digital Communication alumnus Nick Benson, and his college friends Vince Gaetano and Matthew Moloney. A "schtick" is a comic theme or gimmick. The name was intended to serve as a representation of the grounded nature of the discussions that happens on the online platform. "We're just friends who really like movies and want to talk about them," says Nick Benson.



Nick Benson

The creators of the page believe that we live in a world of streaming, and the days of going to the local video store and asking the clerk "What's good?" are long gone. Netschtick.com hopes to provide this service to movie lovers in a much more detailed and interactive way. Currently, the team is developing a weekly 30 minute companion pod-cast, which will premiere at the end of the year. For more information go to: [www.netschitck.com](http://www.netschitck.com).

## PREPARING FUTURE FACULTY (PFF) CERTIFICATE

PFF is a national initiative sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools and the Association of American Colleges & Universities and supported by numerous disciplinary organizations in all fields of study. The initiative offers students with the opportunity to become PFF certified by completing the necessary requirements. PFF involves providing graduate students with information and experiences relevant to academic careers in their field. "When we prepare our students, we teach them how to prepare a syllabus and how to structure a course, but we don't spend much time with them on how to be a good advisor, and how to be a good administrator, which is also a big part of being an educator," said Dr. Wie Yusuf, PFF Steering Committee Chair. Earlier this month, PFF held an event titled "Making it Through the Home Stretch." Dr. Rick McKenzie, College of Engineering & 2013 Doctoral Mentoring Award Recipient, Dr. Lindsay Usher, College of Education, Lauren Browning, PhD candidate, College of Sciences, and Amana Katora, MFA graduate student, College of Arts and Letters, talked with graduate students about topics in relation to the process of completing a thesis or a dissertation project. More than 25 graduate students attended the event

and were able to engage in a Q/A session with the professional educators as well as former and current graduate students. The topics of discussion included time management, balancing graduate work with family life and social pressures. "We try to tailor the events in a way that it covers the entire spectrum of graduate students needs," Yusuf said.

For more information about the certificate program, or to join the program's emailing list visit: <http://ww2.odu.edu/ao/gradstudies/development/pff/> or email Dr. Yusuf at [jyusuf@odu.edu](mailto:jyusuf@odu.edu).



PFF's November Event

## JACK KENT COOKE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP AWARD

FIELDS: Humanities and humanistic social sciences  
ELIGIBILITY:

The Foundation's Dissertation Fellowship is for advanced doctoral students who are completing dissertations that inform the Foundation's mission: advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. To be eligible, candidates must demonstrate superior academic achievement, have successfully defended their dissertation proposals, and be enrolled full-time in a US graduate degree-program. Students must be devoted to working toward informing or advancing the following:

- High-achieving students from low-income backgrounds, and/or
- Students who demonstrate the potential for achievement, and/or
- The conditions that promote high achievement (e.g., school settings, interventions, policies).

STIPEND: Up to \$25,000  
APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 4, 2014  
WEB PAGE: <http://www.jkcf.org/>

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITY SEARCH ENGINES

<http://pivot.cos.com/>

<http://www.grants.gov>

GRADUATE NEWS IS ONLINE AT [WWW.ODU.EDU/GRADUATESTUDIES](http://WWW.ODU.EDU/GRADUATESTUDIES)  
*ODU graduate student Iva Stoyneva completed and edited this newsletter with help from Dr. Brenda Neumon Lewis and the staff of the Office of Graduate Studies. You can contact Iva at: [istoynev@odu.edu](mailto:istoynev@odu.edu).*