Mr. Rodin Ndandula

Rodin Ndandula hails from Northern Virginia and decided to continue at Old Dominion after earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Currently Rodin is pursuing his Master's degree in Engineering Management.

Mr. Ndandula currently works for Housing and Residence Life as an Assistant Residence Hall Director. In his position, he supervises student staff members, advises students, and facilitates programming events focused on the tenets of responsibility, engagement and pride. Rodin has worked with his colleagues on several initiatives to provide students with the best living and learning experiences to facilitate their development as Monarchs and global citizens.

Mr. Ndandula is a fervent member of the Student Government Association where he cherishes his roles serving as a senator and chairman of the safety and transportation committee. Rodin is using his leadership through SGA to champion the quest for the diverse student population of ODU. As a proud Monarch Citizen, Mr. Ndandula has led various campus initiatives promoting safety among his peers and encouraging a collective campus responsibility.

Mr. Ndandula states that his passion for student success and higher education is what keeps him engaged. When asked why students' voices must be heard, he replied, "The future of our nation's education systems lies in their hands. They will one day become leaders, and having each and every one of their voices be heard through able representation is critical. I've been fortunate to not only serve the Monarch Community, but also be the voice for my peers."

As an undergraduate, Rodin was a resident assistant, and a four-year member of the ODU Wrestling team. He is a life-long, active learner whom is passionate and dedicated in his efforts to support ODU's initiative which is to serve the needs of the university community and its students. Rodin's dedication to his peers and the ODU community contributed to his successful appointment to the prestigious position as the Student Representative to the Board of Visitors on April 24, 2014.

In addition to his internal urge to succeed, Rodin acknowledges the importance of his mentors. He has several throughout the ODU community and is very appreciative for the investment they have made on his journey at ODU.

Consider taking GRAD 700?

GRAD 700 is a 1-credit course which lasts 8-weeks, January 20 - March 15, 2015. This course is completely online, and fulfills the 2 non-PFF events necessary for the PFF certificate! The course objective is based on the idea: students who are better prepared for and able to take charge of their graduate education and the planning of their future academic careers as researchers, teachers, and productive members of both their institutional and disciplinary communities. Throughout this course, students will:

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Inside this Issue: Scholarly Accolades, and Events, Updates (p. 2) & Shining Star (p. 3), and Graduate Events (p. 4)
Ms. Futun Alkalifah, MSDH student, attended the North American/Global Dental Hygiene Research Conference with her Graduate Program Director, Dr. Gayle McCombs. This event occurred October 16 - 19, 2014 in Bethesda, Maryland.

ODU’s Center for Global Health now offers an online graduate certificate program in Global Health. This program provides comprehensive training in knowledge, practical skills, and leadership for professionals who are practicing or plan to practice in a global health setting. This program addresses health problems on a global scale, impacting health, well-being, and national security in both developed and developing nations.

The certificate program is a 15-hour program that can be completed in a 1 or 2 year time frame. Students in all disciplines may pursue this certificate. Up to 6 hours of graduate coursework can be transferred into this program. Admission to the certificate program requires a bachelor’s degree (or the equivalent). For further information, please contact Dr. Akpınar-Elçi at makpinar@odu.edu.

College of Education’s Jade Bishop is recognized for being an awesome Graduate Assistant and her work as president of the Student Council for Exceptional Children.

SAVE THE DATE
Graduate Research Achievement Day
April 16, 2015
The Graduate Research Achievement Day gives graduate students the opportunity to share their research with the campus community each spring semester. If you are currently conducting research, consider submitting a proposal for a poster or an oral presentation. A call for proposals and additional event details will be released soon!
What is PFF?
Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) is a nationally recognized program designed to expose graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to the diverse roles, responsibilities, and rewards of a career in academia. PFF primarily focuses on teaching and service roles sometimes not included in doctoral training. Fundamental research skills, such as grant writing, publishing, and academic job searching are also addressed as part of the mission of ODU’s PFF Program. Students completing the PFF program receive a special designation of completion added to their official transcript and an official PFF certificate of completion.

Students - Do You Know a Shining Star?

♦ All faculty members are eligible (i.e. professors & adjuncts).
♦ Only students can nominate faculty.
♦ Nominations are being accepted through Friday, December 5th, 2014.
♦ Faculty members will receive a certification of appreciation, a commemoration pin, and an acknowledgment will be sent to the appropriate College Dean.

Please submit nominations through the following link, click here.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & ENROLLMENT SERVICES
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- become socialized into the various cultures found in different types of institutions in the academy;
- develop a multidisciplinary support network that can be accessed for information sharing and exchange, advice seeking, discussion, & etc.;
- explore whether a faculty position in higher education is a desirable personal and professional goal;
- identify characteristics of successful college/university faculty; and
- develop the requisite skills for obtaining a faculty position.

To register for GRAD 700, use the following CRNs based on your campus location: CRN: 29904 (WEB 2), 29905 (WEB 5), or 29907 (WEB 7).

For more information about PFF, please click the link to visit the PFF website.

To subscribe to the PFF listserv, click here.

Other questions, please contact Dr. Wie Yusuf, Chair of the PFF Steering Committee @ jyusuf@odu.edu or 757-683-4437.

Health Insurance
The enrollment period for the spring 2015 semester is December 1, 2015 — February 16, 2015. The spring plan provides coverage from January 1, 2015 through July 31, 2015. For more information, CLICK HERE.
Graduate Student Events

If you aspire to advance your career opportunities after graduate studies: Crafting or updating your curriculum vitae (CV) or resume is essential. The Graduate Student Organization annually offers graduate students an opportunity to learn general and field specific tactics to present the best representation of themselves on paper each fall. This year’s CV and Resume Workshop was held October 11, 2014.

On Thursday, November 20, 2014, the Graduate Student Organization hosted an Alumni Panel with the assistance of Brooke Boothby of the Kornblau Alumni Center. Three dedicated Old Dominion Alumni graciously shared their insight on: life after graduate school, mentorship, the necessity of networking, and perspectives to consider in selection of the best fit for identifying your individual path to graduate studies. The Graduate Student Organization would like to extend their gratitude to each panelist and attendee for participating.

Office of Graduate Studies