Dr. Sara Hoff

Dr. Sara Hoff is a spring 2014 graduate of Old Dominion’s Graduate Program in International Studies. Knowing that she wanted to work for the federal government upon completing her graduate program, Dr. Hoff committed to the arduous task of applying for the Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF) Program.

The PMF is a two-year program administered by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. It serves as a flagship leadership development program for advanced degree candidates. PMF was created more than three decades ago by Executive Order, and it continues to attract the best candidates who aspire to become government leaders. Once appointed, a fellow works at a federal agency, while rotating among other agencies, attending conferences and workshops, and completing 160 hours of mandatory classroom instruction. After completing the two-year program, the fellow has the option to convert into a full-time government position, non-competitively.

Prior to graduation, Dr. Hoff was notified she was selected as a PMF finalist. This was a major accomplishment given she was 1 of 500 finalists selected from an applicant pool of approximately 12,000. Dr. Hoff excelled throughout the interview process and sought many exciting opportunities once she was appointed a PMF Fellow. With the advice of her advisor and mentor, Dr. Hoff accepted her first assignment with the Office of Energy Statistics at the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the independent research arm of the Department of Energy.

Dr. Hoff believes the interdisciplinary focus of the GPIS was vital to her success throughout the PMF application and interview process. Her success also reflects a central tenet at the core of graduate studies: mentoring. In fact, the relationship between a mentor and graduate student may be the most influential factor in a student’s graduate journey.

Dr. Hoff’s mentor was Dr. Regina Karp, an associate professor of Political Science and the director of the Graduate Program in International Studies (GPIS) in the College of Arts and Letters. The relationship between Dr. Hoff and Dr. Karp exemplifies the power of mentorship. Dr. Hoff shared her vision of pursuing a career in the federal government with Dr. Karp and together they tailored her program of study to encompass security related courses. Their purposeful selection of coursework, internships, and research prepared Dr. Hoff to answer questions relating to international affairs during her PMF interviews with comfort and confidence.

Dr. Hoff is extremely happy in her position as a fellow at EIA in Washington, D.C. From her office, she can see the tip of the Washington Monument while eating her lunch! Moreover, she is open to the possibility of mentoring others desiring to pursue the opportunity to become a PMF Fellow. Dr. Hoff can be contacted via email at shoff010@odu.edu.

For more information on the PMF program visit: http://www.pmf.gov/. The Office of Graduate Studies is extremely honored Dr. Hoff selected ODU as her home for graduate studies and wishes her continued success!
Did You Know? Graduate Health Insurance is Now Available!

This semester marked the roll-out of Old Dominion University’s graduate health insurance for all international and domestic graduate students enrolled in courses at the University’s main campus and higher education centers. The first implementation was a great success. More than 350 graduate students were able to take advantage of the “gold” rated UnitedHealthcare coverage.

Mark your calendars, as the enrollment period for the spring 2015 semester is **January 1, 2015—February 16, 2015**. You must reenroll each fall and spring semester. The spring insurance plan provides coverage from January 1, 2015 through July 31, 2015.

All graduate students are encouraged to review the certificate of coverage located at [www.uhcsr.com/odu](http://www.uhcsr.com/odu). This document provides coverage details, including qualifications, costs, benefits, exclusions, reductions, and limitations.

Qualifying degree-seeking, domestic graduate students must enroll online at [www.uhcsr.com/odu](http://www.uhcsr.com/odu).

Qualifying degree-seeking graduate students holding an assistantship and earning a minimum of $5,000 a semester are eligible for a special subsidy. Students in this category must enroll at: [https://requestcoverage.uhcsr.com/odu](https://requestcoverage.uhcsr.com/odu).

Please contact UnitedHealthcare’s customer service center at 1-800-767-0700 or at [www.uhcsr.com/odu](http://www.uhcsr.com/odu) or the Office of Graduate Studies at gradhealth@odu.edu, if you have additional questions.

### Insurance Enrollment Rate Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Student Type</th>
<th>Domestic, degree-seeking: Enrolled at ODU’s main campus or a higher education center.</th>
<th>Rates: $1,204</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Student Type</th>
<th>Domestic, degree-seeking graduate assistant earning at least $5,000/semester &amp; enrolled at ODU’s main campus or a higher education center.</th>
<th>Rates: $1,008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Student Type</th>
<th>International students with F-1 and J-1 visas.</th>
<th>Rates: $1,008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

---

**Graduate Research Achievement Day**

The Graduate Research Achievement Day gives graduate students the opportunity to share their research with the campus community during the spring semester. If you are currently conducting research, consider submitting a proposal for a poster or session presentation next semester. A call for proposals and additional event details will be released soon!

---

Want to spotlight a graduate student or graduate organization, share events, publishing or research opportunities, exciting news, graduate events? Please send Information (photos, dates, & other pertinent details) to Raleta at RSUMMERS@ODU.EDU or submit your information using the following link: [click here](#).
Check out the ODU graduate catalog and speak with your GPD about available funding possibilities. The following is a list of helpful websites and current opportunities:

**Pivot**: Pivot.cos.com  
**Grants.gov**: Grants.gov  
**National Science Foundation**: NSF.gov

### Old Dominion University Graduate Student Travel Award

ODU’s Division of Student Engagement & Enrollment Services graduate student travel award is only available once during your graduate journey. We suggest you apply for this funding to support your attendance to a conference which presents the most financial hardship. This award will fund up to $500 for any combination of your conference registration fee, round-trip transportation, and hotel parking only. Applications are accepted throughout the year. The deadline for each individual is a minimum of 30 days prior to your first day of travel. Early application submission is highly encouraged. Applications are only accepted electronically and must be submitted using the provided PDF forms. Click here to download the 2014-2015 graduate application packet.

### The Explorers Club 2015 Exploration Fund Grants

Beginning researchers (graduate, post-graduate, doctorate and early career post-doctoral students) are encouraged to apply for this grant which supports field research. Proposals are accepted from disciplines including:


All applications must be submitted through the online system. If you have trouble with registration, please email grants@explorers.org. The application is available at grants.explorers.org. The application deadline is 5:00 PM, November 5, 2014.

### The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program

This scholarship provides support for independent graduate-level studies in oceanography, marine biology, or maritime archaeology (including all science, engineering, social science and resource management of ocean and coastal areas), and particularly encourages women and minorities to apply. Click here for more information.

**Current Closing Date for Applications**: December 10, 2014
Leadership Lecture Series 2014

Participation in one Leadership and Student Involvement Leadership Development Session is a “Points and Standards” requirement by SGA for recognized organizations. If you are a member of a recognized graduate organization, attendance at any Leadership Lecture Series event will fulfill this P&S. The following leadership-focused programs are available this semester:

- **Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014 at 12:00 PM** *Empowering your team: Selfless Investment in your team leads to success*; (Hampton NN Rooms) Register
- **Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014 at 12:00 PM** *Officer Transition Workshop*; (Hampton NN Rooms) Register
- **Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 at 12:00 PM** *Strong Leadership Demands Soft Skills*; (River Rooms) Register

**Consider Joining a Campus Graduate Organization?**

- Association of Graduate Students in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Biology Graduate Student Organization
- Business Administration Doctoral Student Association
- English Graduate Organization
- Graduate Athletic Training Organization
- Graduate Nursing Student Association
- Graduate Society for International Studies
- Graduate Sport Management Club
- Graduate Student Organization
- Graduate Student Organization of Criminology and Sociology
- Higher Education Student Association
- Industrial and Organizational Psychology Student Association
- Instructional Design and Technology Graduate Student Organization
- Marine Biology Student Association
- Master of Business Administration Association
- Ocean Earth and Atmospheric Science Graduate Student Organization
- Old Dominion Student Chapter of the Botanical Society of America
- Physics Graduate Student Association

---

**Advanced Degree Luncheon for December 2014 Graduates**

December 2014 Advanced Degree Graduates are cordially invited to join the Old Dominion University Alumni Association for a luncheon December 10, 2014 at 11:30 am in the Barry M. Kornblau Alumni Center. The luncheon will honor December 2014 Advanced Degree Graduates and welcome them to the ODU Alumni Association.

This event is free for December 2014 Advanced Degree Graduates plus one guest. Business casual dress is suggested.

Space is limited and an RSVP is required. To RSVP click: tinyurl.com/AdvancedDegreeDec2014

The RSVP deadline is December 5, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Kaitlyn Bennett, a May 2014 graduate of the Master’s in Public Administration Program, reflected on her graduate journey during the May luncheon.
Did you know Perry Library has an entire section of the library’s website dedicated to assisting graduate students? Did you know every College has a discipline specific librarian to assist graduate students with obtaining resource materials?

Check it out:  
www.odu.edu/library/help/faculty-graduate-students

4 + 1 Program
Information Session

The Office of Graduate Studies in conjunction with the Career Management Center and Graduate Admissions conducted an information session on the 4 + 1 accelerated programs available at ODU. Approximately 140 undergraduate students attended. This session provided an opportunity for undergraduate students to learn about graduate study at ODU and how they can earn a bachelor’s and a master’s degree using the 4 + 1 accelerated model.
The Office of Graduate Studies’ website is located at odu.edu/graduatestudies. On the website you will find:
• General information about graduate assistantships
• Graduate catalogs
• Graduate Newsletters
• Information on the Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
• Information on the Doctoral Mentoring Award
• Preparing Future Faculty Program information
• The Old Dominion University Guide for Preparation of Theses and Dissertations
• Upcoming events
• Up-to-date graduate forms

The Office of Graduate Studies is located at 2019 Koch Hall.

Academic Software Instructional Systems
Through the University’s software licensing program, current versions and upgrades of McAfee Virus Scan software are available for students to download, free of charge, to their personal computers. Additional instructional software is available for download, such as EndNote and X-WIN 32. Visit the ITS Services and Software Catalog at http://www.odu.edu/ts/software-services to download software. Searching this catalog will inform you if a particular software is available to access via an on-campus lab or the ITS Virtual Computer Lab.

Student Ombudsperson Services (S.O.S.) provides services to students who experience administrative, academic, or personal roadblocks. S.O.S. is there to help you achieve your personal and academic goals. For assistance contact Stella Mills, Director of SOS, at 683-3442 or smims@odu.edu.

Counseling Services are available for individuals, couples, and groups to help with personal, academic, and career concerns. Students coming to the Office of Counseling Services are usually seeking more effective and rewarding lives by confronting personal problems, career questions, skill development issues, or value questions. Call (757) 683-4401 to schedule an appointment.

Graduate Writing Assistance Program
The Graduate Writing Assistance Program offers free, one-on-one assistance to ODU’s graduate students with theses, dissertations, and writing projects for any course. Assistance is provided by appointment only. Students can schedule an appointment with a writing consultant in the Graduate Writing Assistance office located in BAL 6015. Please see their helpful resource page at: http://ww2.odu.edu/al/gwap/Writing%20Links/index.htm.
College of Arts & Letters Scholarly Accolades & Updates

MFA’s Creative Writing Program

Friends of the MFA Creative Writing Program at ODU is currently led by MFA Alumna Mary Westbrook (President). The Friends community has an opportunity to build a scholarship for deserving MFA students. A challenge gift was made to the program in fall 2013 by Phil and Juanita Raisor, and the challenge goal is for the organization to raise $25,000 within the next five years in order for an endowed fellowship to be established. Friends of the MFA Program has raised $16,443.43 to date (leaving $8,556.57 to raise). We cannot stress how important it is for our students to have strong support during their program of study here; assistantships help them to better accomplish what they came here to do. Please consider donating directly to the fellowship by contacting Barbara Henley, Director of Planned Giving, 757-683-3090 or bhenley@odu.edu.

MFA STUDENT & ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fiction (F), Non-fiction (NF), & Poetry (P)

Natalie Diaz (P) received a Pushcart Prize, a Lannan Foundation Award, and a Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award in December; and in July 2014, The Lewis Center for the Arts announced the award to her of the prestigious Holmes National Poetry Prize. http://www.princeton.edu/arts/news/archive/natalie-diaz-holmes-poetry-prize/

Sarah McCoy's (F) second novel, The Baker's Daughter (translated into 6 European languages & was a New York Times Bestseller pick: week of April 20, 2014)

Christian Anton Gerard (P) successfully defended his Ph.D. Dissertation this spring at the University of Tennessee, & debuted his first book, Wilmot Here, Collect for Stella (WordTech, 2014)

Tara Shea Burke (P) had her chapbook "Let the Body Beg" accepted for publication by Emerge Literary Journal; she is now a Poetry Editor at The Quotable; She also received a Pushcart Prize nomination from the journal Sinister Wisdom for her poem "The Hungry Girls of America.”

2014 Student Awards & Publications

Michael Alessi "Insulaphobia." Mid-American Review, Fall 2014 (Honorable Mention in The Fineline Competition)


Caleb True "The Pulcinella Suite." The Sonora Review, 66. (F) "The Speechwriter." Whiskey Island, 64. (F)
