President Runte highlights both challenges and successes in annual address to faculty

BY STEVE DANIEL

In her State of the University address Aug. 22, President Roseann Runte spoke both of Old Dominion’s challenges and successes. She mentioned three challenges as being the most important issues the university faces today: rejecting the tendency to retain the status quo; choosing successful forms of delivery, as well as appropriate content, of education; and securing the funds necessary to achieve goals and dreams.

Regarding the first challenge, Runte asked: “Morally, do we not have the obligation to improve — as examples, as mentors, as custodians of our students’, our nation’s future? We dedicate our work daily to the bright faces of the future who inhabit our classrooms. But our efforts are also directed to ourselves, for when we look in the mirror we see those who are inventing the future and those whom the future inspires.”

Just as ethics is tied to the first challenge, the same is true of the second, she said. Faced with pressure from the private sector to focus more on applied knowledge and practical experience, as well as pressures from the government and the public to reduce the time to degree, while including everything from civic education and computing skills to foreign language education and volunteer experiences, achieving a responsible balance is a delicate matter.

“How do we create good citizens, ethical people, knowledgeable and capable of working in a global environment, with the ability to perform in all the categories required in four short years?” she asked.

Noting, again, the concern for ethics, Runte said, “It is and will remain the responsibility of educators to enable future generations to give meaning and practical value to words like sharing, caring.”

Addressing the third challenge, Runte said the time has come “for our commonwealth to renew and expand its investment in innovation, in inspiration and in the intelligent designs of our faculty.” She added, “When one looks at the 300 percent return on investment the state has received from modeling and simulation, failure to invest further is to choose deliberately not to realize the potential of excellence.”

Runte also cited the following as issues that will command the university’s attention in the coming year: meeting increasing demands from regulatory agencies and accrediting bodies for analysis, statistical reporting and evaluation; continuing the expansion of international exchange agreements and opportunities; placing increased

State of the University

Informants

Arthur B. Kelly, above, leads a campus tour for prospective students and their parents the morning of Aug. 17. Although the fall 2007 semester kicks off this weekend, the admissions office will conduct tours throughout the year for future Monarchs. Kelly, a senior communication major from Newport News, is president of the ODU Student Ambassadors. At left, Adam Samuelson, a junior political science major from Woodbine, Ga., answers a student’s question at the Campus Information Center in Webb.

PODIENTS.

Gordon Art Galleries grand opening set for Sept. 9

BY LANE DARE

The new Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries at Old Dominion University will have their public grand opening at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9. The galleries comprise the Baron and Ellin Gordon Self-Taught Art Collection, whose inaugural exhibit, “Collective Wisdom,” features a portion of the Gordons’ collection, and the University Gallery, which will display works by members of the ODU art department faculty. Admission is free.

“Collective Wisdom” will continue through the summer of 2008, and the faculty exhibit will be up through Oct. 21.

Located at 4509 Monarch Way in the University Village, the Gordon Galleries are situated between the Stables Theatre and the ODU bookstore and café, currently under construction. The bookstore and café, as well as a nearby Marriott SpringHill Suites hotel, are expected to open in November.

Pioneering folk art collectors Baron and Ellin Gordon, of Williamsburg, Va., announced last year their plans to donate a significant portion of their collection of 20th- and 21st-century American folk art to Old Dominion. Their private collection is counted among the handful of top collections in the world of recent American art by self-trained artists. The Gordons have previously donated pieces to the Museum of American Folk Art in New York and other prestigious institutions, including the Visionary Museum in Baltimore and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum in Colonial Williamsburg, and have loaned pieces for many groundbreaking exhibitions. In 1997, works from the Gordon collection comprised the first exhibition of 20th-century folk art to be displayed at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller museum.

The largest art donation ever received by the university, the Gordon collection consists of more than 300 pieces by over 70 artists, including paintings, sculptures, rugs, canes and carvings. Among these are works by artists Howard Finster, Geneva Beavers, Mose Tolliver, Leroy Archuleta, Thornton Dial, Inez Nathaniel Walker, Miles Carpenter, Israel Litvak and many others from across America.

“Thanks to the generosity and vision of Ellin and Baron Gordon, Old Dominion (See GORDON GALLERIES, Page 6)

Poet Nikki Giovanni is freshman convocation speaker

Nikki Giovanni, world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist and a University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech, will be the keynote speaker for Old Dominion’s Freshman Convocation Aug. 26. The program begins at 4 p.m. in the Ted Constant Convocation Center.

One of the most widely read American poets, Giovanni also remains a committed advocate for civil rights and equality. She was the first recipient of the Rosa Parks Women of Courage Award.


For more information about convocation, call Nicole Kiger in the student activities and leadership office at 683-3446.
Under the sea

These young art lovers were on hand for the “Oceans Habitat” mural reception at the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center, on July 27. The colorful painting, which covers a portion of an upstairs wall, resulted from a collaborative effort among students in Patty Edwards’ Elementary Art Education course at ODU and schoolchildren who took part in a collaborative project, resulting in the mural being hung at ODU’s Powhatan Sports Center.

Modern dance concert features original choreography

The Old Dominion University dance program will present “Natural Focus,” a modern dance concert featuring original choreography by dance faculty members Mina Estrada and Amanda Kinzer, at 8 p.m. Aug. 30 at the University Theatre.

Estrada presents three works: “Love: Moderned,” “Bedtime Stories” and “It’s Our Song.” “Love: Moderned” examines the complex nature of love, marriage and partnership for a modern woman. The large-ensemble work “Bedtime Stories” is a dreamy and luxurious piece which fashions a world that is wild, sensual and alluring. “It’s Our Song,” an excerpt from a larger piece titled “Her,” is a tale of three women finding their way through the experience of love and betrayal.

Kinzer contributes “Passage,” a sinuous trio to music by Leonard Cohen, and “Origins,” a high-energy, large-group dance with a tribal flavor. A new duet co-choreographed and performed by Kinzer and Estrada explores the divergent life pathways of two women.

Estrada recently received her master of fine arts degree in dance from Temple University and currently teaches at Christopher Newport University and ODU. She has performed with dance companies in New Orleans and Philadelphia.

Kinzer, an associate professor, has taught in the ODU dance program for the past six years. She has presented her work in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Kentucky and New York City, and has performed with Second Wind Dance Company, Gravity Optional and CREO Multi-media Ensemble.

Tickets are $12 for general admission and $10 for ODU students. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at the Arts and Letters Box Office in the lobby of the University Theatre or by calling 683-5305. For more information about the concert call 683-3002.

Rutte named to Army education committee

President Roseann Rutte recently was appointed to a four-year term on the Army Education Advisory Committee.

The committee provides the secret of the Army and the Army’s senior leadership with expert advice on Army educational programs. It is the parent committee for the following subcommittees: Command and General Staff College, Distance Learning/Training Technology Applications, Army War College, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center.

Earlier this year, Rutte was selected chair of the ROTC Subcommittee, where she oversees a group of leaders from national educational associations, institutions of higher education and the private sector, in guiding 273 ROTC programs and more than 1,600 Junior ROTC programs from across the nation and from military installations abroad.

Recycling initiative seeks used books, CDs and DVDs

Old Dominion’s recycling program announces a new partnership with Virginia Social Ventures (SVS) to collect used books, CDs and DVDs from faculty.

Starting this semester, clearly marked containers will be placed in each academic building on campus next to the university’s paper recycling containers.

Adding books, movies and music will provide a further increase in pounds recycled at ODU, but it also assists SVS’s training program, which focuses on teaching computer skills needed to sell these products online. Items are sold on Amazon and similar Web sites to a worldwide market. The skills learned are transferable to numerous industries in today’s marketplace and prepare the trainees for employment upon graduation from the program.

A new nonprofit organization, SVS, is designed to use social entrepreneurship and supportive services to help people with significant employment barriers, specifically homeless and very low-income individuals, succeed in the world of work.

“It’s a win/win situation,” said Kathy Taylor Gauharz, SVS executive director, said of the initiative. “We’re thrilled that materials no longer in use at ODU can be donated through the university recycling program and then to our training program for sale online. If that’s not enough of a win/win gain, seeing people around the world put these items to use again at a used price is terrific. It’s recycling at its best.”

Contralto to give free concert, master class Sept. 4

Contralto Helen Tintes-Schuermann, accompanied by pianist Julio Alexis Muñoz, will perform a guest recital, “Spanish Poetry in 20th Century Song,” at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 4 in Chandler Recital Hall.

Sponsored by the ODU music department, the program will feature works by Fernando Obradors, Joaquín Rodrigo, Federico Mompou, Manuel de Falla, Eduardo Toldrá and Xavier Montsalvatge. Tintes-Schuermann and Muñoz will also give a master class at 12:30 p.m. Sept. 4. Both the concert and master class are free and open to the public.

Tintes-Schuermann, assistant professor of voice at the University of South Carolina, is an experienced concert soloist and has sung works of Mozart, Haydn and Vivaldi at the Festival du Printemps in Monte Carlo, St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Vienna, the Salzburg Cathedral and the Festival of Religious Music in Cuenca, Spain. Specializing in German and Spanish/Latin American repertoire, she has given numerous song recitals in Europe and the United States.

Muñoz is one of the outstanding pianists of the Spanish new generation of chamber musicians. He has performed throughout Europe, America, the Middle East and Japan.

Athletic dept. hires coach for women’s rowing team

Heather Weisel, a former U.S. national team rowing coach and collegiate head coach, who also helped lay the foundation of the Old Dominion rowing club as a former coach, has been named head coach for the university’s first intercollegiate women’s rowing team.

Women’s rowing will become ODU’s 17th intercollegiate sport when it begins competing in the fall of 2008. Rowing has existed as a club program since 1979. Weisel has served as head coach for the men’s and women’s teams at The College of New Jersey, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Lafayette College. She was a member of the U.S. Rowing coaching staff that competed in Seville, Spain, and Milan, Italy, where her women’s double team finished ninth at the FISA World Rowing Championships in 2003.

She served as the rowing coach for ODU’s men’s and women’s club team from 1988-94, guiding the club from six members to 60 during her tenure. She served as an adviser to the ODU club team this past year.

Weisel competed three years at Purdue University, winning a gold medal at the 1986 Mid-West Championships.

Sign up now for emergency text messaging service

Old Dominion now offers a free emergency alert text messaging service for students, faculty and staff. It is an optional service that will be used only for potential, developing or existing emergencies or weather advisories.

During such events, those with the service will receive an ODU text message alert advising of the situation and directing them to additional information on www.odu.edu.

To sign up, visit www.odu.edu/alerts (Midas ID and password required).

ODU breaks ground for Powhatan Sports Center

Old Dominion broke ground Aug. 2 for the Powhatan Sports Center, which will support the intercollegiate athletic programs of field hockey, lacrosse and football.

Located south of the Facilities Management building on Powhatan Avenue, the $17 million center is expected to be completed next summer.

The venue will feature a state-of-the-art, 1,500-seat field hockey and lacrosse stadium; two practice fields for football; and a 58,000-square-foot building that houses offices, locker rooms, athletic training and strength training areas, and video editing/projection suites.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, President Roseann Rutte said the center is a tribute to the success of the women’s athletic program and a milestone in the development of the football program.

www.odu.edu/courier

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The editor reserves the right to select representative submissions and edit all material to conform with Associated Press style and available space.

For updates on university news between Couriers, visit the Web page www.odu.edu/courier.

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www.odu.edu Portal to New Worlds
**ODU, EVMS to pursue joint programs**

The presidents of Old Dominion University and Eastern Virginia Medical School signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Aug. 9 that will guide the development and implementation of joint programs and degrees.

Under the agreement, EVMS and ODU will establish a new Executive Committee to strengthen collaboration between the two institutions.

President Roseann Runte and Harry T. Lester, president of EVMS, signed the memorandum of understanding at Webb Center. The document was also signed by the provosts of the two institutions, Thomas L. Icenhour of ODU, and Gerald J. Pepe of EVMS, who will head the new Executive Committee.

“This is great news,” said Lester. “EVMS and ODU have worked together on various programs ever since EVMS was founded. But it was always on an ad hoc basis. It was program by program. By formally establishing joint goals and creating an ongoing Executive Committee, the new MOU provides the organizational framework for a true partnership.”

“This is an umbrella agreement that establishes general goals,” Runte explained. “With our signatures today, our two distinct institutions pledge to be singularly committed to excellence in fields where our cooperation is possible. We pledge to share hopes and dreams and to realize programmatic cooperation to serve better Hampton Roads and the commonwealth.

Leadership at both institutions confirmed that the goal is partnership, not merger. The institutions already collaborate on joint programs and research in biomedical sciences, public health, clinical psychology, ophthalmic technology, and medical modeling and simulation. They also have an early acceptance program that guarantees admission to the EVMS M.D. program for high-performance students at ODU.

The Executive Committee will meet at least once every two months to administer the goals set forth in the MOU.

**Governor appoints Barry Kornblau to Board of Visitors**

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine has appointed alumnus Barry Kornblau to the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors.

Kornblau, who served on the ODU board from 1997-99, will serve a four-year term. He succeeds Patricia Woolsey, whose second term expired June 30.

Additionally, Gov. Kaine reappointed current board members David W. Faeder, managing member of Fountain Square Properties, Sunrise Foundation; Conrad M. Hall, president and chief executive officer of Dominion Enterprises; and Dr. Katherine A. Miller of Hot Springs, Va., associate professor emeritus of economics, to three-year terms.

**Deaths of former faculty reported**

Charles P. Blich

Charles P. Blich of Statesboro, Ga., professor emeritus of economics, died July 22, 2007. He was 82.

He joined the ODU faculty in 1966 after earning a doctorate in economics from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

In academic year 1974-75, he was appointed visiting professor of economics at the University of Wales, Swansea.

During his career, Blich published several articles in professional journals, and a book. He retired from ODU in 1990 and returned to his childhood home. In 1995, he acquired and restored his grandfather’s (W.H. Blich Sr.) plantation house, circa 1880, where he resided until his death.

Survivors include a sister, Charlotte B. Minter, of Abiquiu, N.M.; four nieces; and a nephew.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County, 515 Denmark St., Suite 1200, Statesboro, GA 30458, OR to the RIF Program at Statesboro Regional Library, 124 Main St., Statesboro, GA 30458.

Friends may sign the online register book at www.joineranderson.com.

Malvern “Mal” Miller

Malvern “Mal” Lynn Miller of Hot Springs, Va., associate professor emeritus of occupational and technical studies, died July 10, 2007, in his home. He was 71.

Miller joined the Old Dominion faculty in 1971 and taught marketing education for 32 years. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Association of Vocational Special Needs Personnel. An avid outdoorsman who loved fishing, hunting and boating, Miller was also a wonderful cook.

Survivors include his wife, Susan Saarver Miller of Hot Springs; a daughter, Anna Johnson Helmer of Chesapeake; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his two sons, Martin Lynn Miller and Malvern Berte Miller, and one brother, Kelly Lynn Miller.

Memorial donations may be made to a charity of choice.

**Louis Searlean**

Louie Searlean of Virginia Beach, associate professor emeritus of accounting, died May 12, 2007. He was 90.

A veteran of World War II, Searlean worked in government service for 36 years before retiring in 1970 to teach accounting at Old Dominion. During his tenure at the university, he served a term as chairman of the accounting department and was a member of the Faculty Senate. He retired after 13 years of teaching.

Survivors include two daughters, Diana Milligan of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and Rebecca Shetler of New York City; one son, Evan Searlean of Virginia Beach; and three granddaughters. He was predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Edythe V. Searlean.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.hollomon-brown.com.

**Schliphacke awarded Fulbright for research in Berlin**

Hedi Schliphacke, associate professor of German, has been granted a Fulbright Award from the German-American Fulbright Commission for 2007-08.

The award will provide four months of research support for her project, “Globalizing Gender: Post-Fascist Masculinities in German Film.” She will conduct her research in late spring 2008 in conjunction with her host institution, The Free University in Berlin, Germany.

“My project will focus on the representation of masculinity in post-war German film, a topic that has to date received little attention from German Studies scholars,” she said. “Whereas Nazi cinema and the Nazi propaganda machine had produced a seemingly male mood, masculine identity after 1945 encounters a taboo in German cinema.”

Schliphacke, who joined the ODU faculty in 2000, teaches courses on modern German literature, language, culture and film. This year she will be on sabbatical to teach at Haverford College as a visiting associate professor.
Laroussi to head new Laser & Plasma Engineering Institute

BY JIM RAPER

The Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology has established a new research entity, the Laser and Plasma Engineering Institute (LPEI), with Mourit Laroussi, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, as its director.

LPEI houses three laboratories run by three of Old Dominion’s leading researchers. Laroussi’s collaborators, also from the electrical and computer engineering department, are Hani Elsayed-Ali, professor and eminent scholar, and Amin Dharamsi, professor.

Oktay Baysal, dean of the Batten College, said that with today’s high-tech products, such as in the biomedical field, “engineering lasers and plasmas have become a critical tool both for research as well as for educating the next generation’s engineers.” He said the three primary LPEI researchers “form a capable team of experts to help ODU respond to this need.”

Just a few days after the LPEI labs were fully operational in May, a documentary crew from the Smithsonian Network, a new television enterprise affiliated with Showtime, visited the facility. The network shot video footage and interviewed Laroussi about his research in plasmas, the highly charged “soups” that have applications ranging from killing germs to creating shields that can allow aircraft to avoid radar detection.

Laroussi will work at LPEI’s Applied Plasma Technology Laboratory, continuing some projects that he started during a three-year affiliation with the Frank Reidy Research Center for Bioelectronics, which is operated by ODU and Eastern Virginia Medical School. “With the institute, my mission is broader,” he explained. “My work is more than bioelectronics. It encompasses all aspects of plasma science and engineering.”

More than five years ago, Business Week magazine named Laroussi as one of the nation’s leading experts in atmospheric – or cold – plasmas and he has been building research momentum ever since then, much of it supported by funding from the Air Force’s Office of Scientific Research.

During the past several years, his development of a germ-killing cold plasma pencil – a handy device that looks like a small light saber – has been widely publicized in magazines such as National Geographic.

His expertise with the use of plasmas in aviation – to draw the interest of the Smithsonian Network, but also the History Channel. In several video documentaries, he has described how plasmas can be used to shield a radar from radar and how other futuristic uses in aviation are also possible.

A project now in Laroussi’s laboratory involves a small device that uses cold plasmas, and no moving parts, to create a stream of ion wind. A flag of paper taped to the edge of the device actually flaps in the wind. Plasma wind production is not new, especially in applications designed to work in outer space, but Laroussi is looking into applications within Earth’s atmosphere that could be a boom to aeronautics. For example, a “boundary layer” of ion wind on the skin of an aircraft might decrease friction and allow the plane to fly at higher speeds, he said.

Elsayed-Ali heads up LPEI’s Surface Science Laboratory, which houses instruments that look like large metal octopuses and which can be used to lay ultra-thin surfaces on substrates or create the quantum dots and nanoparticles that are too small to image.

As director of the Applied Research Center in Newport News, where ODU and other institutions promote commercial applications of nanotechnology, Elsayed-Ali has won respect for his multidisciplinary thinking. He specializes in physical electronics and is widely known for his proficiency with ultrafast electron detection and pulsed laser deposition, which allow researchers to probe nanoscale phenomena and fabricate quantum dots and nanoparticles.

Dharamsi is in charge of the institute’s Laser Applications Laboratory, where he and his research assistants focus on the interaction of laser light with molecules, usually in gaseous form. Fascinating work in his lab involves laser-based sensing using wavelength modulation spectroscopy.

“This spectroscopy is a highly sensitive and nonintrusive process in which a laser probes a medium to identify its components and properties. By measuring wavelength absorption and other physical results of laser photons interacting with the medium, researchers can pinpoint the makeup of the medium and its properties.

“This work involves measurements by nonintrusive methods, so that the target being measured is not disturbed, which would spoil the measurement,” Dharamsi explained. “This allows for remote measurements to be performed when the molecular species is not accessible either because of toxicity or because of remoteness.”

He noted that any measurement requires some sort of interaction between the probe and the sample and, therefore, cannot be perfectly nonintrusive. “However, light provides the lightest touch and so my students and I use lasers to perform these measurements. These measurements and a particular technique involving modulation of diode lasers developed here at ODU provide extreme sensitivity.”

As a Distinguished Lecturer of the Lasers and Electrooptic Society of the Institute of Electrical Engineering, Dharamsi has made lecture trips throughout the United States and Canada, and to Europe, Australia and Asia.

Summer research on “Gilligan’s Island” was far from fun and games for doctoral student in oceanography

Leo Procise, a doctoral student in oceanography, spent time on Gilligan’s Island this summer, but his days weren’t filled with fun and games. He was one of 16 students who labored 80 hours a week in the summer course, “Microbial Oceanography: Genomes to Biomes,” at the University of Hawaii’s Agouron Institute.

A portion of the course was conducted at the Hawaiian Institute of Marine Biology on Coconut Island, which was shown on television as the tropical setting of Gilligan’s shipwreck.

Procise knew what to expect from the coursework and the Pacific isles because another oceanography Ph.D. student, Pete Morton, was among only 12 students accepted for the initial microbial oceanography course at Agouron Institute last summer.

“What a coup to have two in a row from ODU,” said Alicia Herr, department manager in chemistry and biochemistry, where Procise and Morton have done some of their research.

“The course has been incredibly challenging thus far,” Procise wrote in an e-mail. “The first week of the course, which was held June 25 to Aug. 3.

“The professors, however are very good at giving us a steady stream of digestible information at a speed that does not bore the advanced or baffle the beginner.”

He added, “Upon completion, I’m sure that I will be eagerly prepared for research at ODU.”

The course explored the dynamic and fundamental role marine microbes play in shaping ocean ecology and biogeochemistry. The students represented research schools such as Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and MIT in the United States, as well as institutions in England, Chile, China.

Students who apply for the course are judged according to their research experience. Those who are accepted have all of their expenses paid. Most of the classroom and laboratory sessions are at the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. Also included are 10 days of research cruises on the university’s 186-foot R/V Kilo Manoa. The final week is on Coconut Island.

Morton said he was enthusiastic about the value of the course, but added that the schedule was grueling, with a routine of lectures, labs and colloquia from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.

Information technology prof gets NSF grant for case-based design project

Harris Wu, assistant professor of information technology and decision sciences, recently received a $299,942 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for his proposal on “Supporting Case-Based Design for Packaged Software Implementations.”

The project falls within NSF’s interdisciplinary Science of Design program.

According to Wu, there is an increasing trend in information systems to utilize large software packages that must be customized and redesigned to integrate them into other existing and evolving systems. The research project focuses on case-based design, a method for leveraging prior experiences to identify current problems or decisions and developing solutions for such problems or decisions based on those of the prior experiences.

Wu believes better designs can be achieved at lower costs with lower risks by utilizing the collective power of a large group of people. Consequently, the project proposes to develop and evaluate an open-source tool to support case-based design in packaged software implementations.

Before joining the ODU faculty in 2005, Wu had more than 10 years of industry experience in IT/business consulting, management, marketing, software development and entrepreneurship.
Paleoclimatologist Dennis Darby, left, pictured here on a 2005 research trip to the Arctic, is currently on another fact-finding mission to the polar region. The expedition is of special import because of concerns about global warming. Another spur for the research is an international, underwater land grab—the oil, gas and mineral deposits at stake—that poses some uncertainty to the current warming trend that is melting polar ice and making some portions of the Arctic more accessible to ships.

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Denmark's desire to lay claim to the ocean bottom off Greenland (which is a territory of Denmark). Claiming underwater land is the main reason the Danish government is willing to spend $70,000 a day on the Danmark's desire to lay claim to the ocean bottom off Greenland (which is a territory of Denmark). Claiming underwater land is the main reason the Danish government is willing to spend $70,000 a day on the
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Langlais leads charge on responsible conduct of research

BY JIM RAPER

ost faculty and administrators agree that graduate students need to be trained in professional and scholarly standards and to report ethical and professional misconduct. On the other hand, potentially adverse consequences to whistle-blowing send a conflicting message to students, according to Philip Langlais, vice provost for graduate studies and research.

Langlais led a responsible conduct of research (RCR) workshop at the Summer Workshop for Graduate Deans, which was held by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in mid-July. As part of the workshop, he engaged the participants in discussing a case study about six graduate students at a Midwestern university who suffered irreparable damage to their careers after they turned in their faculty adviser for falsifying research data.

"This duplicity is clearly something that we don't like to talk about, but which we have to talk about," Langlais said. "We won't change the underlying culture and causes in my lifetime, but we shouldn't back off because we think a fix is impossible."

Ethics and RCR training for graduate students has been the focus of an ODU initiative led by Langlais for the past three years. On one hand, he said, we tell graduate students to see themselves as a unit or misbehavior, you must do something."

But on the other hand, potential whistle-blowers are thinking: "If I do, my chances of finishing my degree and maybe my hopes for a professional career will go right down the tubes."

In the case study from the Midwestern university, "It is not enough for us to just promote a new division in graduate programs. In 2006, ODU was part of the CGS pilot program that began in 2004 to develop best practices for comprehensive ethics and RCR education in graduate programs. In 2006, ODU successfully applied for support in the second wave of the CGS program, which is funded by the National Science Foundation and will expand upon the original work. Langlais has led ODU's participation from the beginning."

An ODU task force has done research on campus to gauge student and faculty perceptions and skills regarding ethical decision making and to frame a general plan for the ethics training that is needed. In his presentation to the deans, Langlais stressed the importance of assessing the RCR knowledge of particular administrative departments. The ODU research shows, for example, that faculty members are much more likely than graduate students to believe that ethical standards and RCR are adequately covered in current programs.

"An initial assessment of perceptions and skills, Langlais told the deans, forms the basis for education and innovation in the areas of ethics and RCR. Specific remedies will take time to develop, but, in the meantime, open lines of discussion between administrators, faculty and graduate students will keep the RCR issues well defined and out in the open, Langlais added.

In an interview, Langlais said the survey conducted by the ODU task force has been refined and is being used in RCR assessments of all life work to focus on the work of the ODU RCR task force.

In a recent article in ODU's Quest magazine, Langlais described results from the campus study indicating the importance of ethics education in undergraduate education, particularly for nontraditional students. "The changing demographics of the Gordons' generative gift to ODU University now joins the public collections of Herbert Wade Hemphil Jr., Abby Aldrich Rockefeller and Henry Francis Dupont, to be seen, studied and experienced for years to come."

Barry Moss of Tymoff+Moss Architects designed ODU's Gordon Galleries, guided by American Association of Museums with the Ann Atlantic Foundation. They were recently honored by the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art for scholarly investigation of the Gordon collection from many perspectives: sociological, anthropological, psychological, African American, and American history.

"The Gordons' generosity suggests that future generations of students will be exposed to the amazing objects. Often their work emerges in response to personal tragedies or arises from compelling visions in which they seek better worlds than they face daily. Most of this work would have disappeared had it not been for a cadre of avid collectors with understanding and support."

"Self-taught artists such as we see in the Gordon collection concentrate on a dizzying range of messages. There is genius here, albeit made by artists who are from nontraditional backgrounds and all walks of life, with no connection to the academy, and who express themselves through these amazing objects."

Randall Morris Calvin-Morris Gallery
State of the University

(Continued from Page 1) emphasis both on public-private partnerships and meeting the needs of under-served populations; embracing the university’s role as a problem solver; and maintaining a strong emphasis on globalization.

She added that ODU has made a request for funding for a systems research building to be included in the next biennial budget, and that it will ask the state to bring its base adequacy funding to 100 percent in order to support technology and science initiatives.

On the subject of successes, Runte said, “This summer we moved to a higher ranked position and have received $21 million for construction of a new, arts classroom and studio building. In the last six years our endowment has grown from $77 million to $184 million. Research expenditures have grown from $24.7 million to $65.4 million. State funding has grown from $92 million to $121 million. We have five endowed chairs, as well as two have 18. “These results are truly excellent and I congratulate all members of the team, especially our vice presidents for development, institutional advancement and research, for their fine work.”

She called on the faculty to support a new university-wide marketing initiative that will soon be unveiled, whose goal is to have ODU’s image catch up with its reality.

“We will focus externally on areas that truly make us distinct from other universities,” Runte said. “We will emphasize our nationally recognized faculty with real-world experience, innovative and engaging teaching, our profoundly multicultural community which values individuality, and our cutting-edge, collaborative research.”

“With our decision to focus on integrating technology, teaching, our profoundly multicultural community which values individuality, and our cutting-edge, collaborative research,” Runte said. “We will emphasize our nationally recognized faculty with real-world experience, innovative and engaging teaching, our profoundly multicultural community which values individuality, and our cutting-edge, collaborative research.”

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President Runte (on ODU’s new marketing initiative)
Robotic glider makes local stop

Larry Atkinson, right, Old Dominion's Samuel A. and Fay M. Slover Professor in Oceanography and Rommel Molls, a Nauticus maintenance mechanic, wait to test flight wings to RU01, a battery-powered, undersea robotic glider following its New Jersey-to-Virginia Beach research mission, which ended Aug. 15. Atkinson and Teresa Garner, a research scientist at ODU's Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography, were on hand at Nauticus the following day to explain the workings of the glider and provide community about the regional consortium that is using the S-foot-long devices — the Mid-Atlantic Regional Coastal Ocean Observing Association. ODU is a member of MARCOOS. Atkinson, whose research focus is coastal oceanography, says the four-week run down the mid-Atlantic continental shelf for RU01 was the first of a series of regular glider missions in the region. He expects data from the missions to boost research in glider studies. Gliders are high-speed, relatively small, unmanned craft that can stay at sea for months at a time, continuously collecting data for several weeks at a time. Atkinson says the missions, part of the Marine Technology for the Development of Microwaves for Surface Plasmas; NASA Langley Research Center, $10,000.
