NIH awards $1.1 million for Reidy Center cancer research

BY JIM RAPER

Cancer-therapy research at Old Dominion’s Frank Reidy Research Center for Bioelectrics has won critical support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The funding agency has invested $1.1 million in a project that is led by Andrei Pakhomov, a research associate professor, and is designed to promote human therapeutic applications based upon the center’s pioneering work with ultrashort electric pulses.

The project, “Cell Death Induction by High-Voltage, Nanosecond-Duration Electric Pulses (nsEP),” will be funded by NIH for four years beginning July 1.

Pakhomov’s collaborators on the grant are Juergen Kolb, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, and Karl Schoenbach, eminent scholar and Batten Endowed Chair in Bioelectric Engineering. With the grant, Pakhomov proposes a research agenda that will explore the biological reasons behind the center’s remarkable success zapping tumors on mice.

Researchers at the center have a good understanding of the net result of directing ultrashort pulses against cells. Now they want to know why the pulses are so effective. Before experimental treatments can evolve into therapeutic applications on humans, this fundamental research on cell function is required.

Preliminary experiments, Pakhomov says, indicate that ultrashort pulses affect cells in ways similar to certain radiation doses and chemical agents—cells die because their DNA, membranes or other components are damaged by free radicals produced by the treatments. (Free radicals are atoms or groups of atoms with an odd number of electrons. Once formed, these highly reactive radicals can start a chain reaction that will damage important cellular parts and perhaps cause cell death.)

One advantage that may come to recommend electrotherapies over conventional cancer therapies is the potential of the pulses to pinpoint tumor cells without causing harm to healthy tissue. Cancer treatments for humans will be advanced significantly if electrotherapy can be shown to work along well-understood pathways, yet without the dreaded side effects that cancer patients experience now from therapies involving chemicals and radiation.

Schoenbach and other researchers at ODU and Eastern Virginia Medical School in the past eight years have garnered worldwide attention for their work with nsEP. Melanoma tumors on the skin of mice have been treated successfully by the researchers, and the base patent for their method is owned jointly by ODU and EVMS.

Electrotherapies against tumor cells have been around for more than three decades, but most involve electric pulses of longer duration that might be described as overkill. (See CANCER RESEARCH, Page 7)

Mars lander findings could revive interest in prof’s rocket fuel research

BY JIM RAPER

Robert Ash admits that no one he knows is clicking frantically through the television channels trying to catch the latest reports and the images coming from the Mars lander Phoenix, which touched down on the Red Planet in late May. But the Old Dominion University aerospace engineer has invested three decades in Mars mission research, and for him just now a robotic arm digging in the dirt 100 million miles away is more exciting than anything else on the news.

In a word, Ash is interested in water on Mars, how much is there and where.

“I’m dying to see what they finally find,” he said of the experiments being conducted by Phoenix.

But in the early going, at least, Phoenix had trouble performing some of the tests it was designed to do, and suspension mounted for Ash. When the arm scooped up clods and dumped them onto a screen that is designed to break up the Martian surface material into tiny pieces, hardly any tiny pieces broke off the clods and fell into the lander’s miniature ovens.

Finally, on June 11, NASA reported that Phoenix had begun to fill its eight tiny (See ROCKET FUEL, Page 7)
news and notes

Book reviews

Shantel Harris, age 11, gets up close and personal with her book on the first day of the Lambert's Point Summer Programs' reading class. The class, part of a two-section course that also includes computer literacy, is open to youngsters from Old Dominion's nearby neighborhoods and dependents of university employees. Harris is the granddaughter of Marlene Lewis, who works in the admissions office. ODU also offers a Funastic Summer Camp, as well as boys' and girls' basketball camps, through the annual Lambert's Point Summer Programs, which are administered by the Office of Community Relations.

Biology students win awards for papers

Two doctoral students in the biological sciences department won awards for their papers at the May 2008 annual meeting of the Virginia Academy of Sciences. Matthew Semeschek's presentation, titled “Phylogenetic Relationships of the Snappers (Lutjanidae: Perciformes) Inferred from Mitochondrial Cytochrome b Sequence Data,” received the graduate student award for the Best Paper presented in the Biology Section. At the same meeting and section, Todd Egerton's presentation, "Exploration of Phytoplankton Communities in Southeastern Virginia for Use in Biodiesel Production," was recognized as the second best paper.

Village concerts continue through July and August

The music continues this month and next as the University Village celebrates summer with Music on Monarch Way, a free concert series featuring an eclectic lineup of jazz, bluegrass, reggae, folk, salsa, blues, swing and progressive performers. Sponsored by the Old Dominion University Real Estate Foundation and the University Village, the Saturday concerts are held from 5-7 p.m. on the lawn behind the Ted Constant Convocation Center. Admission and parking are free.

The following concerts are scheduled through August:

• July 12 – Harwell Grice Band (bluegrass)
• July 19 – Tumbao Salsero (Latin/salsa)
• July 26 – Big Wide Grin (soulfully acoustic)
• Aug. 2 – Hands Off (reggae)
• Aug. 9 – Fat Tony Band (“blues, swing and everything”)

Four former Lady Monarchs have been named to the 16-member 2008 U.S. field hockey team, which will compete next month in Beijing.

They join fellow Old Dominion alumni Anna Tummlifke ’05, Debbie Capozzi ’03, Sally Barkow ’02 and Charlie Ogletree ’89 from sailing, and USA women’s basketball head coach Anne Donovan ’83, at the 2008 Summer Olympics.

Triffany Snow ’03 (Escondido, Calif.), Angie Loy ’03 (Loysville, Pa.), Dana Senseng ’06 (Denver, Pa.), and Caroline Nichols (Virginia Beach) ’06 will represent the U.S. field hockey team when it travels to China for the team’s first Olympic Games appearance since 1996.

The U.S. National Team will open competition Sunday, Aug. 10, against 2007 Pan American champion Argentina. NBC will televise all U.S. field hockey matches. A total of 13 former ODU field hockey players have gone on to participate in the Olympics. But student-athletes are not the only ones with strong ties to the Games. Head coach Beth Anders and assistant coach Gwen Alexander were members of the 1984 U.S. bronze medal team. Anders set an Olympic scoring record in 1984 that still stands. The U.S. team scored nine goals, with eight coming from the stick of Anders.

Four Monarch pitchers selected in MLB draft

Four Old Dominion baseball pitchers were selected in the Major League Baseball draft last month and have been assigned to minor league clubs: Dan Hudson (Virginia Beach), Anthony Shawler (Chesapeake), Dexter Carter (Murfreesboro, N.C.) and Ryan Bergh (Reddick, Fla.).

Hudson and Carter will play for the Great Falls, Mont., Voyagers in the Pioneer League. Shawler will play for the Oneonta Tigers in the New York-Penn League and Bergh will be with the Clearwater Threshers of the Florida State League.

Hudson was selected in the fifth round by the White Sox; Shawler in the ninth round by the Tigers; Carter in the 13th round by the White Sox; and Bergh in the 26th round by the Phillies.

Sport management major qualifies for Olympics in 400

LaShawn Merritt, a junior sport management major, finished first in the 400-meter dash July 3 at the Olympic team trials in Eugene, Ore., to secure a spot on the U.S. track and field team that will compete next month in Beijing.

He finished the race in 44 seconds flat, .2 seconds ahead of his closest competitor, fellow ODU track star Jeremy Warner, the reigning Olympic gold medalist.

Merritt transferred to ODU from East Carolina University in February 2005, after signing an endorsement deal with Nike that terminated his amateur status. In order to avoid conflicts with his training schedule, he takes the bulk of his classes in the fall, when he can more fully devote attention to his studies.

He said that he’s having fun dividing his time between sprinting and school, and isn’t in a hurry to graduate.

“It’s cool because it lets me focus on both track and class,” he said.

Merritt gives credit to his longtime coach, Shane Miller, who was his track coach at Portsmouth’s Woodrow Wilson High School, and his parents for encouraging him to see through his education.

Daughter of ODU profs on Olympic soccer team

Angela Hules, daughter of Old Dominion faculty members Janis Sanchez-Hules, professor of psychology and department chair, and Michael Hules, associate professor of history, was named June 23 to the U.S. women’s soccer team that will compete in the Summer Olympics in Beijing.

Just three days earlier in South Korea, Hules scored the goal that gave the U.S. women’s national team a 1-0 victory over Canada in the title match of the 2008 Peace Queen Cup. She won the Golden Ball as the most valuable player in the competition.

In May, Hules also scored the winning goal in the national team’s 5-4 win over Australia in a friendly match played in Alabama. She has scored a total of seven goals in 84 national team appearances.

The U.S. women’s team will play its first Olympics match on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

Field hockey, sailing alums to compete at Olympics

The meeting is open only to HACCE members; however, those who join the organization and pay the $5 annual dues at the door are welcome to attend. Participants are invited to bring their lunch. Drinks and cookies will be provided.

For more information call Judy Smith, HACCE president, at 683-3269.

For more information about the performers go to www.oduvillage.com or call 683-4504.

Works by Fay Zetlin on display at Gordon Galleries

Works by the late Fay Zetlin, a former student and faculty member, are on exhibition until Aug. 3 at thearon and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries. “Origins: Selected Paintings by Fay Zetlin,” a mini retrospective of her work from 1959 to 1979, is testimony to the importance of her career, particularly since Abstract Expressionism is currently under reexamination.

With a solid regional reputation, Zetlin was associated for many years with the ODU art department as student, teacher and visiting artist.

She explored an idea that continued to be a focus throughout her career — creativity manifest visually. She sought to make her work a self-reflexive questioning of the nature of the creative act in the process of painting, and explored how this act of creativity could be communicated within the work as a form of visual language.

The Gordon Galleries, 4509 Monarch Way, are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. For more information call 683-6271.

James Long to discuss parking at HACE meeting

James Long, director of parking and transportation services, will speak to members of the Hourly and Classified Employees Association about new campus parking issues at noon Tuesday, Aug. 12. The location will be announced at a later date.

• Aug. 16 – Mercy Creek (progressive)
• Aug. 21 – John Baldwin & the Original Sinners (blues).

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“news makers”

“The United States clearly needs a far more serious energy plan, coordinated with the other major global powers. And such a plan must target transportation, where the men’s and women’s roles overlap, not wrecking the U.S. and global economy.” (Steve Yevich, professor of political science, in an op-ed)

“Calculating peak oil’s due date” The Virginian-Pilot, June 24

“A huge investment has been made from within ODU in order to make this happen. Better resources have been used to make this transition.” (Mohammad Karim, vice president for research, on ODU’s increases in research and development expenditures, including funds from within the university)

“ODU releases annual research figures” Inside Business, June 23

“For road funding, user fees just make sense” Daily Press, June 14

“Tuition assistance deadline for fall is Aug. 1” Daily Press, June 14

“Sometimes I think of myself as a social documentarian or an archivist. I’m creative, I’m a social historian. Sometimes I think of myself as a social artist, even to drive to church.” (Patrick Hughes, who was a former rector of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, known as Hughes Hall, and before that, the Hughes Atrium. The building was formerly the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Swiss Council for Accident Prevention, and universities in England and Australia.)

Porter to chair conference in D.C.

Bryan Porter, associate professor of psychology, is chairing the 4th International Conference on Traffic and Transport Psychology to be held in Washington, D.C., Aug. 31 to Sept. 4. “The conference became ODU’s to organize in early 2003,” he said.

More than 300 specialists in traffic and transport psychology from 40 countries will attend the conference. The agenda includes 10 symposia and about 180 presentations on driver training and technology, driver impairment, effects of fatigue, characteristics of aging drivers, and road user attitudes and behavior.

Porter said Elsevier, the publisher, based science and health publishing firm, is handling many of the registration and management tasks. “That leaves me to do more of the science and people work,” he explained.

Less than two months out from the conference, he is scrambling to process late submissions from authors, assisting with sponsor development, trying to meet last-minute requests from speakers, including one who will present live via television from

Board approves budget, tenure appointments

The Board of Visitors approved the university operating budget and personnel plan for 2008-09 and endorsed the award of tenure to seven faculty members at its June 13 meeting.

The fiscal budget of $411.6 million includes an increase in the university’s Educational and General Fund appropriation from $206 million to $216 million.

This increase reflects the general fund support for the Modeling and Simulation Research Initiative, Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium and the Tuition Incentive Funds for capping the tuition increase at 4 percent.

The new budget adds 23 faculty members, seven professionals/administrators and 13 classified/professional instruction, academic support and research increased form 69.5 percent to 70.9 percent over the previous year.

The following faculty members were promoted to associate professor as a result of the award of tenure: Shabbir Akhtar, philosophy and religious studies; Martha M. Dvos, foreign languages and literatures; Isaac M. Rurlin, mechanical engineering, licensing; Liu, business administration; Michael L. Nelson, computer science; Robert Pinskier, accounting; and Ghati Rabsidi, engineering management and systems engineering.

Also awarded tenure were four faculty members who already held the rank of associate professor: Jennifer Fish, women’s studies; Alyson M. Rurlin, mechanical engineering, handling many of the registration and management tasks. “That leaves me to do more of the science and people work,” he explained.

Less than two months out from the conference, he is scrambling to process late submissions from authors, assisting with sponsor development, trying to meet last-minute requests from speakers, including one who will present live via television from Scotland, and assisting with social details.

Two other tasks for Porter involve possible publishing opportunities. He is working with the top student submissions to develop manuscripts suitable for a special student issue of a traffic psychology journal. In addition, he is working with manuscripts from other delegates for an electronic compilation, from which he hopes to glean a book that he will edit.

Martha Hughes received her master’s degree in psychology from ODU in 2000, has co-authored numerous articles, reports and grants with Porter. They wrote the peer-reviewed manuscripts included in the book, The Childhood of Becoming: A Pedestrian Pedagogy: Drivers’ Knowledge of Pedestrian Rights and Responsibilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia,” published in 2004, and “Characterizing Red Light Runners Following Implementation of a Photo Enforcement Program,” published in 2006.

Longtime faculty member Sureendra Tiwari dies

Sureendra N. Tiwari, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, died June 10 at his home in Yorktown. A native of India, he received two master’s degrees from the University of Maine and his doctorate from the State University of New York.

Tiwari, who retired in May as eminent scholar of mechanical engineering, joined the Old Dominion faculty in 1971. During his career, he received both the Research Award and Tonelson Award. He mentored over 100 graduate students, more than 40 of whom received a Ph.D. under his direction.

He directed efforts to create the Institute for Computational and Applied Mechanics and established the Institute for Scientific and Educational Technology. Additionally, Tiwari represented ODU to the National University Space Research Association and was a co-director of the NASA/ASEE Summer Faculty Fellowship Program.

A Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a member of the Thermal Science National Council of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Tiwari received more than $14 million for his research and scholarly activities. He was a co-principal or co-authored more than 400 research publications and books, and was awarded the AIAA Thermophysics national award.

Survivors include his wife, Surya Banshi Tiwari; a daughter, Meena; numerous family members in India; and a niece, Jaya Tiwari.

Memorial donations, toward the Tiwari Endowed Graduate Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering, may be made to the ODU Educational Foundation, 4417 Monarch Way, Norfolk, VA 23529.

Tuition assistance deadline for fall is Aug. 1

Tuition and all tuition assistance programs are increased to $89,000. Fall semester applications for tuition assistance programs are due at the department by 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1. Proof of registration is also required.

Classified & Hourly Employees

Eligible classified employees may receive assistance for up to 15 credit hours per year – six credit hours for the fall semester, six credit hours for the spring semester and three credit hours for the summer sessions – at the in-state rate. Eligible part-time classified employees and hourly employees are eligible to receive 75 percent of the benefit or less (prorated upon the hours worked per 40-hour week).

Requests to complete degrees outside of Old Dominion University at other Virginia four-year institutions must meet the following requirements:

• Degree must be available at ODU;
• Degree must be job-related; and
• Agreement must be signed stating that after completion of the semester, the employee will continue employment at ODU for one year.

Faculty & Faculty Administrators

Eligible faculty and faculty administrators will be awarded fall tuition support at ODU, not to exceed three credit hours per semester and three credit hours in the summer session at the in-state rate.

Dependents & Spouses

The tuition assistance program for dependents and spouses of employees is not available in the summer. Spouses and full-time dependents of full-time faculty, part-time faculty administrators and full-time classified employees will be eligible for tuition assistance for six credit hours in the fall semester and six credit hours in the spring semester. The benefit for the dependents and spouses of part-time classified and hourly employees will be prorated upon the hours worked per average 40-hour work week, not to exceed 75 percent of the benefit.

The deadline for the spring 2009 semester is Dec. 1.

The policies are on the Web at:

www.odu.edu/af/humanresources/benefits.

For more information call Natalie Watson at 683-4237.

Loree C. Heller as research associate professor for VMASC; and
• Saikou Diallo as senior project scientist for VMASC; and
• Shayla Moore Prince as assistant to the dean for research at the Darden College of Education.

• Loree C. Heller as research associate professor of psychology, is chairing the 4th International Conference on Traffic and Transport Psychology to be held in Washington, D.C., Aug. 31 to Sept. 4. “The conference became ODU’s to organize in early 2003,” he said.

About 300 specialists in traffic and transport psychology from 40 countries will attend the conference. The agenda includes 10 symposia and about 180 presentations on driver training and technology, driver impairment, effects of fatigue, characteristics of aging drivers, and road user attitudes and behavior.

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Researchers get $600,000 award for diabetes studies

**B Y J I M R A P E R**

S heri Colberg-Ochs, associate professor of exercise science, leads a team of Old Dominion researchers that has received a $600,000 Clinical Research Award from the American Diabetes Association. Two other faculty members, Steven Morrison from the College of Health Sciences and David Swain from the Darden College Education, are collaborating with her.

The project, “Protective Health Effects of Differing Types and Intensities of Exercise Training in Individuals with Type 2 Diabetes,” is funded for three years and also involves researchers Dr. Aaron Vinik and Henri Parson from Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Regular physical activity can lower the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and many diabetes-related complications, said Colberg-Ochs. However, controversy still exists regarding the optimal amount of exercise needed for improved health and what type of exercise is most beneficial.

The researchers anticipate that their study will identify attainable exercise goals that will provide the most health benefits to anyone with diabetes and another set without the damage will be exposed to various types and intensities of exercise. Another study involves resistance exercise.

Colberg-Ochs, who is a diabetic as well as a diabetes researcher, is a prolific author on the subject of diabetes and exercise. Her latest book, “The Diabetic Athlete’s Hand-Book,” is due to be published later this year.


“The Science of Staying Young” (2007), which Colberg-Ochs wrote with the St. Louis University gerontologist, Dr. John E. Morley, focuses more on exercise than diabetes. Her fifth book, “50 Secrets of the World’s Longest Living People with Diabetes” (2007), is co-authored by Dr. Steven Edelman, an endocrinologist who directs the nonprofit organization Taking Control of Your Diabetes. Colberg-Ochs, who interviewed more than 50 people for “50 Secrets,” said, “The more I learn about diabetes and exercise, the more convinced I become that exercise is absolutely essential for anyone living with diabetes or prediabetes to prevent complications and enhance longevity.”

Mckenzie, endowed professor of physical therapy, has research interests in motor control and biomechanics. One focus of his work is the effect of factors such as disease activity and aging on human balance control. He directs the School of Physical Therapy research laboratory.

Swain, University Professor of exercise physiology, is widely known for his research showing the benefits of vigorous exercise.

That work was featured in an article in Newsweek magazine in 2007. He developed the concept of VO2Reserve, indicating the range of oxygen consumption between resting and maximum consumption, which has been adopted by the American College of Sports Medicine for use in prescribing exercise regimes. Swain also directs the university’s Wellness Institute and Research Center, which offers therapeutic exercise classes for people with various diseases, including diabetes, pulmonary disease and heart disease.

Vinik, director of the Strelitz Diabetes Research Institute at EVMS, is a leading diabetes researcher who recently garnered international attention in medical and professional circles for his discovery of a gene that could lead to a cure for the disease. Parson directs the micovascular biology laboratory at the Strelitz Institute. She holds a doctorate in biomedical sciences from the joint program of EVMS and ODU.

“Diabetes research is the fastest growing research area in the world,” Colberg-Ochs said. “It’s a lot of good conversations, good discussions, and students also visited two universities in the United States.”

Students travel with Rick McKenzie to attend CARS conference in Spain

**B Y A L E X M A C D O N A L D**

Six students from Rick McKenzie’s Medical Imaging and Simulation class visited Barcelona, Spain, last month to attend the Computer Aided Radiology and Surgery Conference, an international forum dedicated to advanced information technologies in radiology and surgery.

“Students tend to give it very favorable reviews,” said McKenzie, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, who attended the conference with students last year in Berlin. During that trip, students had the opportunity to visit two different hospitals to view hip and spinal surgeries, as well as a children’s hospital.

McKenzie said that the conferences are generally well received by students, but for him, the highlights of the trips are the visits to surrounding hospitals and universities.

He said that the best part is learning about new research and exchanging ideas with other people in the field.

“I think a lot of it is the collegiality of working with other professors,” he said. “It’s a lot of good conversations, good discussions, and you get to see a lot of research.”

He said that one of the more striking things about medical research overseas is the discrepancy in resources from country to country. While in some places, researchers are hard-pressed for funding and have no choice but to do more with less, countries like Switzerland have enough funding to finance 12-year-long projects.

“You rarely see anything more than five years here,” he said of projects in the United States. “Usually, it’s more like two or three.”

This year’s conference featured tutorials and workshops on minimally invasive spinal surgery, model-guided therapy, computer-assisted prostate surgery and interventional oncology. The workshops took place from June 24-28, and brought in highly regarded international speakers as instructors and students.

Students also visited two universities in Portugal, traveling by rail to Porto and Lisbon to observe research on site. After enjoying a free day in Lisbon, the class returned to Norfolk on July 6.

Before leaving on the trip, the students were required to take the Medical Imaging and Simulation class in order to give them some background on the subject. They also had to be enrolled full time and have a minimum GPA of 2.5. The trip cost each student $1,100, although scholarships were available that lowered the cost to $800.

In the future, McKenzie would like to have students who already have a background in medical imaging attend the conference, perhaps in a smaller group. He also would like to see more of an emphasis on the opportunities outside the conference.

“I felt it was a good experience for the university to invite more international researchers to visit the campus in order to foster greater sharing of ideas.”
Grant supports nursing profs’ cultural competency research

**B Y J I M R A P E R**

Researchers in the College of Health Sciences, led by Carolyn Rutledge, associate professor of nursing, have received a grant worth $765,000 from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop ways to better equip nursing educators and administrators to deal with cultural diversity and other barriers to health care.

This project is the latest in a series of research initiatives that have established the School of Nursing as a leading designer of training programs that address potential clashes and miscommunication between health-care professionals and certain types of patients. Since 2003, the school has received more than $3 million for cultural awareness projects led by Rutledge, as well as Richard Allen, associate dean for the nursing school, and Laurel Garzon, associate professor of nursing.

Two decisions by the ODU researchers have distinguished their work. The first is the broad definition they have given to “culture.” “I have a problem being too narrow with the definition,” Rutledge said. “It involves more than ethnicity.” In fact, she often refers to “subcultures” and “people of similar orientation” to describe groups – teenage Goths, overweight older women and gay people, for example – who often report unsatisfactory health-care experiences.

The second strategy that has led to the researchers’ success involves their use of diverse resources. One is Old Dominion’s vaunted distance learning program, which is one of the largest of its kind, beaming live lectures and making online courses available to students scattered about the nation and the world. Another resource is Monarch General Hospital, a virtual hospital training facility in the recently updated College of Health Sciences Building.

Also, according to Garzon, the researchers are relying on help from the Thersea Thomas Professional Skills Teaching and Assessment Center at the nearby Eastern Virginia Medical School.

The center is recognized nationwide for its program with standardized patients (SP), actors who are specially trained to help health-care professionals hone their patient interviewing and diagnostic skills.

“There is no way you can teach students everything they need to know about every culture,” Garzon explained. “What we can teach is a process to help you work with various people, and then we can give you the opportunity to put that process to work with standardized patients.”

Recently, the researchers are using the SPs to give cultural competency training to the graduate Nurse Administration Program and the post-master’s Nurse Practitioner Program and the Midwifery Program and undergraduate Registered Nurse Program. The latest grant, which covers the period from July 1 of this year through June 30, 2011, will extend the training to the graduate Nurse Administration Program and Nurse Educator Program.

“Consciously competent” describes someone who is open to diversity but who has to consciously work at it. The best category, “unconsciously competent,” describes someone who is open to diversity and sensitive as a general practice, Rutledge explained.

“Consciously competent” describes someone who wants to be nonjudgmental, but who has to consciously work at it. The best category, “unconsciously competent,” describes someone who is open to diversity and sensitive as a general practice, Rutledge explained.

“The nursing shortage is really a problem caused by a shortage of nursing educators,” she said.

Two decades ago, Rutledge spent a few years living in West Berlin, where her husband was stationed as an Army dentist, and she said she never forgot how diverse the people were. “We had the British, the Russians, the French, the Americans, the Turks, the Germans and so forth, and I found it fascinating trying to understand the different cultures. It opened my eyes about diversity. What is acceptable to some is not acceptable to others.”

Her interest in diversity merged with her professional interest in access to health care to produce her current push for cultural competency. She says the researchers want to take students who may be “unconsciously incompetent” or “consciously incompe- tent,” depending on how aware they are of their prejudices, and move them to categories of more tolerant behavior.

Garzon credits Rutledge with being the “grant writer extraordinary” who has made the cultural competency initiatives possible.

The latest grant is designed to have auxiliary benefits, such as helping future leaders in the field of nursing to understand the need for health-care professionals to be culturally competent in their dealings with co-workers as well as patients. Rutledge also believes the project’s design will make minorities feel more welcome in advanced nursing courses and could lead to more diversity among health-care professionals, and to more nursing educators overall.

“Rutledge sees the upcoming initiative as potentially more valuable than the predecessors because the researchers will be designing training for advanced professionals who can, in turn, train and influence many nursing students and nurses. “The project will reframe the master’s-level Nurse Administrator Program and the post-master’s Nurse Educator Program in order to address issues of cultural competency, health disparities and barriers to care,” Rutledge said.

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Fulbright to Africa

Doctoral student to continue research in ecological sciences

Jay F. Bolin, a doctoral student in ecological sciences, has won a student Fulbright Program award to continue his dissertation research in southern Africa on a group of parasitic plants in the genus Hydnora.

The award, for the 2008-09 school year, will allow Bolin to work with faculty and students at the University of Namibia and with scientists at the Namibia National Botanical Research Institute.

Bolin did field work in Namibia for the last five months of 2005, and one of his advisers is Erika Maas, a faculty member at the University of Namibia. At ODU, he is mentored by Lytton J. Musselman, Mary Payne Hogan Professor of botany.

The young researcher has focused on the unusual Hydnora species, which grow underground in southwestern Namibia and steal water and sugars from the roots of other plants. Hydnora triceps “breaks all of our preconceived notions about what constitutes a plant,” Bolin said. “It never sees light of day, has no leaves and produces an odor of rotting flesh to attract its pollinatory underground."

Mining in Namibia may be threatening Hydnora, and Bolin proposes to classify Hydnora taxonomy with molecular and classical methods. This information and studies on the reproductive biology of the plant are important for its conservation. He also intends to mentor Namibian students and to give a seminar on molecular techniques in plant ecology and systematics.

Musselman, who established a collaborative relationship with the University of Namibia eight years ago, said he finds the award to his student to be “very exciting and personally fulfilling.”

In 2006, a photograph that Bolin took in southern Africa of Hydnora africana in full bloom won a plant images contest sponsored by the Botanical Society of America.

Bolin is one of more than 1,450 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2008-09 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, which is sponsored by the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

— Jim Raper

**Photo by Ian Bradshaw**

Jay Bolin in the lab with Lytton Musselman.
Music major selected for study at Rome opera school

BY ALEX MACDONALD

Talent and opportunity seem to have combined into perfect harmony for Old Dominion student Erin Hannon this summer.

The senior music major left for Rome on July 1 to study and perform with Opera Festival di Roma, a nonprofit opera school that offers opportunities to musicians from around the world. The program consists of three weeks of intensive training, in which students are coached in voice, lyrical diction and conversational Italian. Students will also rehearse for their live performances, which will be staged in the 15th-century central courtyard of S. Ivo alla Sapienza in Rome.

“I always get nervous before auditions,” she said. “It just gets me excited and ready to go.”

Hannon, who has sung with the University Choir and Dieth Chorale, is no stranger to performing abroad. In 2005, she toured Tokyo with the choir, where the group recorded an internationally released album.

“Erin has a beautiful voice,” said Nancy Klein, graduate program director of ODU’s music department. “She has grown as a performer over the years. We are very excited that she had this opportunity to go to Rome.”

Klein describes Hannon as one of the “grandchildren” of the department, as Hannon’s high school music instructor, David Prescott of Kempsville High School in Virginia Beach, was a former student of Klein’s.

“It is a joy when our alumni think highly enough of the department that they send us their most talented students,” she said.

The trip is Hannon’s first visit to Rome, and she said she was looking forward to seeing the city. She spoke with other students who attended the program, each of whom gave it rave reviews.

“They told me it was definitely a once in a lifetime experience,” she said.

Frank Deford to speak Sept. 25 for lecture series

Frank Deford, columnist for Sports Illustrated and commentator on National Public Radio, will be the speaker for the President’s Lecture Series on Sept. 25.

His topic, “The Hype and the Hoopla,” will include commentary on the baseball doping scandal. Deford is the author of 15 books. His newest, “The Entitled,” a novel about celebrity, sex and baseball, was published in 2007.

Community Development Corp. co-sponsors TV course for teens

BY SCOTT LOWE

A group of local teenagers learned about the business of broadcast journalism during a recent visit to the campus. Old Dominion was one of the co-hosts for a course offered by the Urban League of Hampton Roads/Cox Communications Broadcast Academy, which ran June 23-27 and introduced 18 students, ages 14-17, to the basics of television broadcasting production.

Highlight of the course included a field trip to a local network television production facility and the opportunity to experience hands-on action as the crew for a broadcast production.

Edith White, president and CEO of the Urban League of Hampton Roads, said she hoped the students “recognize their own potential by being exposed to community leaders and mentors.”

She added that she was enthused by the response to this inaugural program, and that it could be even larger next year.

“From what I’ve seen this week, it will be a continuing effort, and maybe even expanded from one week to two.”

During the learning activities, which took place on both the ODU and Norfolk State University campuses, the teens discussed topics during sessions on “How to Write Identity a Good Story,” “Interviewing Techniques” and “How to Produce a Script.” Technical know-how was on display in presentations by local media guest speakers, including Derick Rose and Don Roberts of WAVY-TV, and Laila Muhammad and Jimmy Olabanji of WTKR-TV.

“Students learned the basics of broadcast journalism, video production and using the camera to tell a story,” said Ann Grandy, executive director of the ODU Community Development Corporation. A relatively new organization, the CDC was created by the university to engage in a variety of programs and activities to revitalize communities, improve the lives of neighborhood residents and support ODU’s community development interests.

Danielle Stevens, 17, a recent graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, was one of the students who took part in the Urban League course. She will attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania this fall, where she plans to major in communications.

“I wanted to take away knowledge of the broadcasting business and I knew they would have professionals and behind-the-scenes people here,” the hopeful future sports anchor said of the course. “I know this was what I wanted to do with my life.”

Jaselyn Wray, who loves to write, attends Maury High School and has always been fascinated by broadcasting.

“It is just a really good field. I do not think I could ever get bored in this job,” said Wray, 15.

Alumna confirmed for Federal Reserve Board

Old Dominion alumna Elizabeth A. Duke was confirmed June 27 by the U.S. Senate to sit on the Federal Reserve Board.

Duke, who received an M.B.A. from ODU in 1983, was nominated by President Bush last year to fill a vacant seat on the seven-member board. The Federal Reserve determines the course of interest rates in the country and is also responsible for ensuring the stability of the nation’s financial system.

In a release announcing the appointment, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said, “In confirming Elizabeth A. Duke for a term through 2012, we are ensuring the Fed can function during these difficult economic times.”

Duke is senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of TowneBank. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina and is also a graduate and former instructor of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking.
Rocket fuel research

(Continued from Page 1) The ovens, which can hold up to 100 vessels of material, but when July arrived Ash was still sitting on the edge of his seat. Are there significant deposits of ice near the surface of Martian plains? “They are sooo close, but not yet definitive,” he said on July 2. The ovens are linked to a mass spectrometer. Their purpose is to slowly heat up specimens and take measurements to determine the content. “If it’s water, it will sit at 0 degrees Celsius while it sublimes from solid to vapor phase,” Ash said. For a variety of reasons, NASA has a stated policy of not sending humans to Mars until key resources are discovered or verified to be present. “This is an issue that will need to be addressed,” Ash explained. One reason is the lack of proof that water could be tapped at sites selected as Mars staging locations. Ash notes that water in clouds over Mars or in surface samples tested during previous Mars missions is present in very small amounts and could not be exploited for fuel production. The other key resources that need to be confirmed before sending people to Mars are the availability of water and methane. The Phoenix ovens, as Ash explains, can determine whether the water is liquid or solid. Ash says not any time soon. “There are more important things for him and the center that he received such recognition,” said Davis, a senior majoring in finance and accounting. “We were able to go out and use all the things they’ve taught us in our business and marketing classes,” he added. “That was the most rewarding part.”

Business students take home top prize in Target case study competition

By Alex Macdonald

Old Dominion students Bryan Citizen, Miles Davis, Meron Seife and Mallory Snader placed first in the recent Target Case Study Contest, a competition arranged by the university’s Career Management Services in conjunction with Target Corp. They were awarded the $2,000 prize, to be split evenly among them.

In the contest, students were presented with a case problem involving staffing issues, and were asked to prepare a report on possible solutions. Specifically, the contestants were presented with the problem of high rates of retirement among the “baby boomer” generation, which has left gaps in the workforce. The contestants were tasked with developing a strategy that would allow Target to keep its stores effectively staffed in the wake of these retirements.

Thirteen groups of ODU students signed up to compete in the event. Majors included international business, marketing, finance and accounting.

The students were given the opportunity to ask questions about the case, and were then allocated three weeks to complete their analysis. At the end of the three-week period, they presented their reports to the competition judges, who then selected the five best teams as finalists. The teams presented their solutions to Target executives, who made their choice based on the presentations.

For their winning proposal, Citizen, Davis, Seife and Snader offered the executives a multifaceted solution, which included instituting a “Kids on Target” day-care service, promoting the company to college students and marketing Target as anemployer offering career opportunities.

“We did a statistical analysis that showed that most college students consider Target just a place to get a job, rather than a career,” said Davis, a senior majoring in finance and accounting.

The team handed out surveys in ODU’s Webb Center during activity hour late in the spring semester, and used those results in their report. Davis said that the contest helped him learn a lot about Target, and companies in general.

“We were able to go out and use all the things they’ve taught us in our business and marketing classes,” he added. “That was the most rewarding part.”

Athletics program honored for marketing, promotions

The National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators has selected its 2007-08 award winners, with Old Dominion athletics garnering honors in four categories.

ODU, which competes in Category “B,” earned a gold award in ticket sale pieces for the women’s basketball season ticket brochure; silver awards for TV commercials and online promotions; and bronze awards for promotions like ticket giveaway contests and in-game promotions.

The awards mark the sixth straight year that the ODU athletic public relations and marketing department has been honored.

NIH awards $1.1 million for Reidy Center cancer research

(Continued from Page 1) Little is known about the use of Folder in cell plasma membranes following exposure to 853P.

Fakhomov, who has a doctorate in radiation biology from the Medical Radiology Research Center in Omsk, Russia, served as a lead scientist at that center. He also was senior scientist with the Army Medical Research Detachment at Brooks Air Force Base in Texas before coming to ODU in 2004. Recently, he has studied changes in cell plasma membranes following exposure to 853P.

Andrei’s research in electrophysiology is definitely cutting edge, and I am very happy for him and the center that he received such a prestigious grant,” said Schoenbach, the founder of ODU’s bioelectrics program. “It also shows that our research in bioelectronics is now getting the attention it deserves.”

Schoenbach, who has been director of the Center for Bioelectronics since it opened in 2004, is turning over the top administrative post in July to Richard Heller, a researcher in electrophysiology who is moving to ODU this summer.

“It is the first NIH grant obtained by faculty at the Reidy Center,” said Schoenbach.

“Together with the NIH grants that Richard Heller will bring to ODU, the center will have the highest concentration of NIH funding on campus.”

Cultural connections

Jean Hassencahl, right, assistant professor of communication and theatre arts, visited Lisa Erdeljone, a 2007 communication graduate, during an overseas trip this spring. Erdeljone, center, is serving in the Peace Corps in north central Georgia, where she teaches English to middle school students in a small village. Also pictured is her host “mom.”
Elected as an Active Fellow in the American Academy of Sciences. Also, his appointment as a research associate at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, and a committee member of the Virginia Cave Board, effective July 1, 2008. Reappointed by Gov. Tim Kaine to a four-year term on the Virginia Cave Board, effective July 1, 2008. Also, assisting at the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Also, “Key Practices in Community-Art Counseling: Accessibility, Assessment, Intervention” to the Institute on Counseling in Italy, Reggio, Italy.

CHIU MELCHION, assistant professor of aerospace engineering, reduced-order Modeling and Suppression of Noise. Also, his appointment as an Active Fellow in the American Academy of Sciences. Also, selected as an Associate Fellow in the American Academy of Medicine in 2006. Also, “Prerequisites in挑战性: to 德国 for Medicine in Basel, Switzerland. Also, “The Goldilocks Principle” for the Mathematics Undergraduate Lecture Series at the University of Virginia.

BEHARHIG CARDESSS, graduation of the industrial organization psychology doctoral program, “Examining Linkages Between Workforce Inclusion and Stress Measurement and Model Testing” at the American Psychological Association’s Seventh International Conference on Occupational Stress and Health in Washington, D.C.

JOHN ADAM, University Professor of mathematics, “Mathematical Patterns in Nature” to students and faculty in the mathematics department at the College of William and Mary. Also, “Patterns in Nature,” for the Scientific Colloquium Series at the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

JUDY LITTLE, senior lecturer of nursing, May 17 from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her dissertation is titled “Maternal Adaptation to Anomaly or Birth Defect.”

CINDY LITTLE, senior lecturer of nursing, a PhD in nursing, May 17 from Virginia Commonwealth University. Also, “The Difficulty of Defining What Is Good for Children,” at the Virginia Association of Colleges and Universities. Also, “Telework as a Dependent Care Solution: Examining the Literature” for the International Conference on Adaptive Structures: Structures, Structural Dynamics and Materials Conference. Also, “Harmful Phytoplankton Within Virginia Tidal Tributaries” for the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology in San Francisco.

VALERIE MORGANSON, doctoral student of I/O psychology, and DEBRA MAJOR, professor of psychology, “Job Analysis: A Tool to Reduce Work-Family Conflict” at the American Psychological Association’s Seventh International Conference on Occupational Stress and Health in Washington, D.C. Also, “Exploring the Theoretical and Empirical Significance of Sexual Harassment from Third Parties” at the 23rd Annual Conference of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology in San Francisco.


AHMED NOOR, William E. Loeb Professor of aerospace engineering, “Visualizing the Future,” the keynote address in the 2008 ASME Annual Meeting in Orlando, Fl.


HAROLD MARSHALL, assistant professor of history, “Creating Your Own Consortium in Less than Six Months,” at the University of California, Berkeley. Also, “The Evolution of the Mediated World: Recurring Themes in American Popular Culture/American Culture Association in San Francisco.”

Papers/Presentations

JOHN ADAM, University Professor of mathematics, “Mathematical Patterns in Nature” to students and faculty in the mathematics department at the College of William and Mary. Also, “Patterns in Nature,” for the Scientific Colloquium Series at the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

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