Gov. Kaine, Kathleen Parker to address grads

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine and Washington Post columnist Kathleen Parker will be the speakers for Old Dominion's 109th commencement exercises Saturday, Dec. 13. Approximately 1,800 students are eligible to graduate. Kaine will speak at the 9 a.m. ceremony for graduates of the colleges of Arts and Letters, Business and Public Administration and Health Sciences. Parker will speak to graduates of the Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology, Darden College of Education and College of Sciences at the 2 p.m. ceremony.

Kaine became the 70th governor of Virginia on Jan. 14, 2006. During his tenure, Virginia has been recognized as the most business-friendly state in America, the top-performing state government in America and the state where "a child is most likely to have a successful life." He led efforts in 2008 to secure a $1.6 billion bond package to expand college access for Virginians and thereby accelerate economic growth.

Parker, a conservative columnist whose twice-weekly column is syndicated by the Washington Post Writers Group, is the most widely distributed female columnist – and second overall – in the United States. She writes extensively on politics, gender and culture in America and is a popular radio and television guest. She is a regular on news and opinion television shows, including "The Chris Matthews Show," and also has appeared on "The Colbert Report," "Larry King Live," the "Today" show, "The O'Reilly Factor," "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren," C-SPAN with Brian Lamb and "The Laura Ingraham Show."

The first woman to win the H.L. Mencken Writing Award, Parker has taught Spanish at Florida State University, where she received her master's degree in Spanish literature. She also has taught journalism and writing at the University of South Carolina, and is writer-in-residence at The Buckley School of Public Speaking in Camden, S.C.

Old Dominion will award Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees to four alumni: Delores Johnson Brown and Patricia Turner, members of the original "Norfolk 17" who integrated the city's public schools; Robert L. Fodrey Sr., a former Board of Visitors member and longtime ODU supporter; and Anne Donovan, who coached the U.S. women's basketball gold-medal team at the Summer Olympics in Beijing. Turner and Fodrey will receive their degrees at the morning ceremony; Brown and Donovan will be awarded their degrees during the afternoon program.

Kid-friendly

ODU’s Illumination on Dec. 3 was a fun event for young and old – but especially the young. Above, Andrew Jones, 2, the son of Jeff Jones, associate professor of communication, joins the Monarch Marching Band, which opened the festivities. At left, Dominha Wray, a member of the Larchmont Elementary Chorus, is all smiles after being named a winner in the cookie-decorating contest. Also pictured is David O’Dell, Larchmont/Edgewater Civic League president.

George Dragas donates $1 million designated for academic purposes

A $1 million gift from George Dragas Jr. to Old Dominion was announced at the Dec. 5 Board of Visitors meeting. Dragas, a former board rector and ODU alumnus (’56), has designated the gift to be used for academic purposes. Acting President John R. Broderick and the development office are working together to finalize details on how the gift will be utilized.

The university is honored and delighted that George Dragas, a long-time supporter of his alma mater, continues to demonstrate his commitment to the growth and development of Old Dominion University through his generosity," Broderick said.

Dragas was a member of the Board of Visitors from 1983-91, serving as vice rector from 1988-90 and as rector in 1990-91. As vice rector, Dragas chaired the presidential search committee that recommended James V. Koch in 1989.

Past donations to ODU from the Dragas family have included funding for the Dragas International Center, the Dragas Professorship in International Studies Endowment, the Center for Regional Studies (State of the Region report), and numerous other programs and initiatives.

In 1968, Dragas founded Dragas Mortgage Co. and later formed The Dragas Companies, a residential and commercial development company in Virginia Beach, in partnership with his brother, Marcus. Today, George Dragas’ daughter, Helen E. Dragas, serves as president and CEO.

Board expected to appoint search committee in April

The Board of Visitors on Dec. 5 authorized its Executive Committee to hire a consulting firm to aid in the next presidential search process. An institutional assessment is expected to be completed by the time the committee meets in March, Rector Ross Mugler said at the meeting.

He added that the board will appoint a search committee in April, noting that 12 board members have agreed to serve.
Passing of the flag

Staff Sgt. Curtis A. Smith of Old Dominion’s Navy ROTC presents a flag to John Holsinger, eminent scholar of biological sciences, at the Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11 as part of a tradition established last year of giving a ceremonial flag to the ODU military veteran with the longest university service. The flag was donated by the Alumni Association’s Navy ROTC chapter. Holsinger, who has taught at ODU since 1968, entered military service in 1955. Following graduation from Virginia Tech and after attending basic military training, he completed his military service with the Army Security Agency in the Pacific. The service in 1955. Following graduation from Virginia Tech and after attending basic military training, he completed his military service with the Army Security Agency in the Pacific. The service in 1955.

Adolphus Hailstork wins 2008-09 ASCAP Award

Music professor, eminent scholar and composer Adolphus Hailstork was chosen recently to receive a 2008-09 ASCAP Award. The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers is a performing rights organization comprising more than 330,000 U.S. composers, songwriters, lyricists and music publishers of every kind of music. The ASCAP Award is designed to show appreciation for composers whose work is not widely considered a part of mainstream music.

Hailstork’s musical compositions were judged for prestige and value by a panel of musical professionals. They also considered his activity as a composer and how often his work is performed.

Proclaimed a Cultural Laureate of the state of Virginia in 1992, Hailstork has written numerous works for chorus, solo voice, piano, organ, various chamber ensembles, band and orchestra. Significant performances by major orchestras (Philadelphia, Chicago and New York) have been conducted by leading conductors such as James de Priest, Daniel Barenboim, Kurt Masur and Lorin Maazel.

“We are a great music city,” he said. “We have a tremendous opportunity to showcase some of our greatest composers and their music. . . . The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers is a performing rights organization comprising more than 330,000 U.S. composers, songwriters, lyricists and music publishers of every kind of music. The ASCAP Award is designed to show appreciation for composers whose work is not widely considered a part of mainstream music. Hailstork’s musical compositions were judged for prestige and value by a panel of musical professionals. They also considered his activity as a composer and how often his work is performed. Proclaimed a Cultural Laureate of the state of Virginia in 1992, Hailstork has written numerous works for chorus, solo voice, piano, organ, various chamber ensembles, band and orchestra. Significant performances by major orchestras (Philadelphia, Chicago and New York) have been conducted by leading conductors such as James de Priest, Daniel Barenboim, Kurt Masur and Lorin Maazel.

“Of Thee I Sing” exhibit in Diehn Composers Room

The Diehn Composers Room is featuring “Of Thee I Sing: Politics Through Songs,” an exhibition that commemorates the 2008 presidential election year by canvassing campaign songs of former presidential candidates through April 30.

The exhibit showcases a variety of campaign songs: songs that illuminate personal or accomplishments, songs scored by famous composers, songs adapted from Broadway musicals, and songs that creak slander, notarize political corruption, chant social reform and much more.

The first campaign song, the first great singing campaign and other campaign song firsts are showcased, along with presidential photographs, political cartoons and campaign scores. All exhibit materials and items are from Diehn Composers Room and Perry Library collections.

Institute for Community Justice sponsors meeting

Old Dominion’s Institute for Community Justice and the city of Norfolk will sponsor a town hall meeting on “Disproportionate Minority Contact/Confinement in the Juvenile Justice System,” a program for law enforcement personnel, social workers, community leaders, and educators and students of sociology and criminal justice on Saturday, Jan. 24. It is free and open to the public.

Shay Bilchik, former director of the Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program and currently director of juvenile justice and system reform at Georgetown University, will be the keynote speaker.

The meeting will run from 9 a.m. to noon in the Batten Arts and Letters Building auditorium.

CLT offers training on Blackboard for spring

The Center for Learning Technologies will offer Blackboard training for faculty members and reaching assistants starting in January.

The Blackboard Olympics consist of three marathons based on course content, interaction and collaboration, and assessment. Each marathon lasts one full day and consists of four sessions; however, participants may only need to attend one or more sessions during the day.

Each marathon opens with a beginner’s workshop in which faculty members who have never used Blackboard can become familiar with the Blackboard interface. The remaining three sessions each day cover specific aspects of Blackboard or illustrate companion tools related to the topic of that day’s marathon.

The following sessions are scheduled:

- Blackboard Content Marathon – Jan. 6, 15 and 21
- Blackboard Collaboration Marathon – Jan. 7, 13 and 22
- Blackboard Assessment Marathon – Jan. 8, 14 and 20

All workshops will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in room 411 of the Virginia Model for Commercial Real Estate.

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Donate coats through 20th

Old Dominion’s Center for Community Service is collecting gently used and new winter coats for donation to Goodwill.

Broderick letter outlines initiatives for addressing crime

Dec. 4, 2008

Recent crimes in the neighborhoods surrounding Old Dominion University have all unjustifiably anxious and apprehensive. Over the past two weeks, I and other members of the administration have talked with as many different groups as possible – including students, staff, parents and faculty – to hear their primary concerns, get a sense of where specific changes need to occur, and seek their input on possible solutions.

Additionally, the Student Government Association sponsored two safety forums yesterday. ODU administrators responsible for policing, campus infrastructure and emergency communications, as well as representatives from the Norfolk Police Department and the university’s manager of police, were there to hear students’ and parents’ concerns, questions and ideas.

During crime in metropolitan areas is a complex issue, but you have my assurance that Old Dominion University is working very hard to provide our students, faculty and staff a safe environment in which to live, work and learn. I’d like to share some actions that we are already undertaking to achieve this:

• Additional Police Patrols – Both Old Dominion and Norfolk have added additional police to the area to provide a visible presence. Not only does this make students feel safer, but it helps to deter crime.

• New Student Safety App – The university’s new mobile app will allow students to contact the Norfolk Police Department to help prevent and report crime.

• Revised Emergency Communications – While the ODU Alert emergency communication system will continue to be used in circumstances when it is determined that ODU students, faculty and staff may be in imminent danger, we are revising the way information is shared through that system and adding methods whereby the community can be notified of ongoing campus safety.

The board also approved the following resolutions:

• To terminate the university’s early retirement program for faculty for the 2008-09 academic years; the resolution noted that “while 36 faculty members participated in the plan, the university did not reach the goal of 50 percent participation by those members.”

• To adopt the university’s 5 percent budget reduction plan for fiscal year 2009.

• To name two new residence halls adjacent to the Roseann Runte Quad the England House and the Dominion House.

• To name the Child Development Center and Lions Child Study Center Director’s Suite for Katharine Kersey.

Office of Research announces seed grants

Five research teams involving 18 faculty members at Old Dominion and three collaborators from Eastern Virginia Medical School will share nearly $375,000 in multidisciplinary seed funding awarded Dec. 2 by the ODU Office of Research.

The grants were announced by Mohammad Karim, vice president for research. This is round four of a program Karim initiated in 2005 to promote multi-disciplinary research projects. The goal is to nurture projects to the point that they can attract external funding.

Proposal selected for funding by the research office’s panel of experts are (unless otherwise noted, the investigators are from ODU and are identified by the departments and programs they represent):

• “Quantifying Cancer-Causing Human Papilloma Virus Strains in Hampton Roads Women.” Lisa Horth, assistant professor of biological sciences; Mark Dorresteijn, assistant professor of computer science and statistics; Jim Swanson, professor of biological sciences; and Dawn Curran, instructor of medical laboratory and radiation science. $6,721.

• “Hybrid Texture Imaging and Molecular Biomarker Classification of Prostate Tumor Cells.” Akhilesh Solanki, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering; Rao Chaganti, professor of mathematics and statistics; and Jonathan Nyulaywad of EVMS serves as a consultant. $80,000.

• “Do Marine Aggregates Facilitate Gene Transfer of Antibiotic Resistant Pathogens in Aquaculture.” Srinivas Jakkula, professor of environmental engineering; Rhea Chaudry, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Brian Chong, chair of environmental sciences. $78,782.

• “Nove l Nanoporous Electro-osmotic Maneuver: Basic Technology Development and Its Lab-on-a-Chip Applications.” Shashi Qian, assistant professor of aerospace engineering, and Helmut Baumgart, Virginia Microelectronics Consortium Professor of electrical and computer engineering. $81,782.

• “Medical Model of Insulin Delivery: Designing Continuous Insulin Infusion.” Ayodeji Demuren, professor of mechanical engineering; Dr. Eric Gyrucikova of EVMS; and Noboru Goto, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics. Shazia Qian, assistant professor of aerospace engineering, serves as a consultant. $77,670.

Board approves plan to construct new president’s house by fall 2010

The Board of Visitors on Dec. 5 voted to raze the president’s house and replace it, with construction expected to be completed by the fall of 2010. According to Robert Fenning, vice president for administration and finance, “The board is using this time period to address a number of long-standing cultural, mechanical and deficiencies with the current house.”

A study showed that it would cost an estimated $2.1 million to renovate the 5,200-square-foot house, which was built around 1948, and approximately $2.2 million to build a new one. The study indicated that no major building systems have been updated since the original construction.

Plans call for conveying the property to the Real Estate Foundation, which would finance the new construction. The university would then master lease the house. Architects are expected to give a presentation on the project at the board’s April meeting. In other action, the board approved granting the title of emeritus to the following faculty: Hiroiyuki Hamada, associate professor of exercise science, sport, physical education and recreation; John Holsinger, environmental sciences and statistics; Katharine Kersey, director of the Child Development Center and Child Study Center; and Raymond Morgan, professor of educational and counseling psychology.

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• To name the Child Development Center and Lions Child Study Center Director’s Suite for Katharine Kersey.

Financial studies show that they require a very high level of milk subsidy to remain competitive. Unless the people who put melamine into milk lose sleep, the product will continue to be made in China. (Shaomin Li, professor of international business and management)

“Without the need to pay millions for new ways to make money without moral sleight-of-hand, the price of melamine is inordinately high. Unless the people who put melamine into milk lose sleep, the product will continue to be made in China.” (Shaomin Li, professor of international business and management)
By Jim Raper

Old Dominion faculty member Alex Greenwood had a busy few weeks with the news media last month because of his research into the disease-related extinction of island-bound rats 100 years ago and related research into the woolly mammoth, which became extinct 10,000 years ago.

Greenwood is widely known for his research with ancient DNA. An Associated Press story discussed his expertise in exploiting DNA retrieved from preserved bits of long-dead animals and quoted his assessment of the recent work of other scientists to decipher much of the genetic code of the wooly mammoth.

"An amazing achievement" is how the ODU researcher described the work of the other scientists, who studied DNA from mammoth hair that was found frozen in the Siberian permafrost.

News media were quick to seize on the possibility that the deciphering of the full genetic code a decade or so from now could result in the re-creation of a wooly mammoth. Greenwood received inquiries from several reporters seeking his evaluation of the report. After he talked with the AP reporter, he also did an interview with a television station in Washington, D.C.

Earlier in November, Greenwood was featured in another AP story about his research, again utilizing ancient DNA techniques, that shows disease was responsible for the extinction of rats native to Christmas Island in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The findings were the first to demonstrate that disease can lead to the extinction of a mammal. According to the research, rats that were native to the island, which is in the Indian Ocean, fell victim to a pathogen brought by invasive Eurasian black rats. The Eurasian rats, which were not susceptible to the pathogen, thrived on the island after jumping ship.

Researchers raised the possibility then that mammoths might be re-created if viable eggs or DNA can be retrieved from the baby female mammoth — which was about 6 months old when it died on Siberia's Yamal Peninsula. One re-creation scenario suggested that elephant sperm might awaken a mammoth egg. But Greenwood told The Times that then the well-preserved state of the baby mammoth specimen by no means guaranteed that organs would be intact or that eggs would be preserved in an arrested state.

The Times article predicted that new technologies and scientific discoveries would make it more likely that the mammoth DNA sequence will be copied. This seems even more possible now, with the latest reports of researchers. With the full sequence deciphered, the copy of mammoth DNA might take charge of an elephant egg, resulting in the re-creation of the ancient animal.

Greenwood, who joined the ODU faculty in 2006, received his doctorate in human genetics from the University of Munich and has served as a postdoctoral research fellow and research associate at the American Museum of Natural History. He also serves on committees and health boards as a postdoctoral fellow in Munich, Germany.

He received a grant from the Jefferson Memorial Trust last year to continue his studies of mammoth population genetics. He likes to call the work "CSI: Ice Age." He also has a genetics project under way to look at why mammoths had long hair and elephants do not.

An article in Science magazine in 2000 described Greenwood's research in paleovirology, which might someday explain animal extinctions and unlock secrets of ancient viruses to the benefit of modern medicine.

By Bryoney Hayes

The Virginia Department of Education recently granted Old Dominion $140,000 to develop an innovative preschool program to help children with severe hearing impairments improve their hearing and speaking abilities. This program will be the first of its kind in Virginia.

The ODU Oral Preschool Program is being developed with three goals: 1) to teach children ages 2-5 with hearing aids and cochlear implants to develop spoken language through hearing; 2) to train future professionals on how to teach these children; and 3) to serve as a means for researching this new field.

With the grant money, ODU has just finished renovating a classroom to block out the external noise from busy nearby Hampton Boulevard. Children who are learning to convert the sounds their implants pick up into hearing and speech need a room that will keep noise out.

The next stage is for an advisory board to formulate policies and procedures, according to Joe Hever, associate professor of audiology and the program's team leader.

The goal was to start the program by the end of the year. After it has been open for a year, the program will double as a classroom and a center to train future professionals, said Philip Langlais, vice provost for graduate studies and research.

"There are only a handful of such programs in the United States," said Langlais.

The Oral Preschool Program actually has its roots in a larger, umbrella group: the Coalition for Hearing Education and Research. CHEAR was founded by Dr. Barry Strasnick, lead surgeon and chairman of head and neck surgery (otolaryngology) at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Along with Strasnick and Sever, the program team includes ODU's Nick Bountress, the chair of speech pathology and audiology.

Though Strasnick said it was difficult to get parents of hearing-impaired children to want to convert their child’s hearing through medical intervention, one of the things that got the program started is that parents were willing to share their stories.

"Parents want to do something," he said. "The earlier you can do it, the better the outcome is going to be."
Meet Zorka: ODU’s first teraflop computer cluster

BY JIM RAPER

Old Dominion’s first teraflop computer cluster, which has been given the name Zorka, has been installed on the fourth floor of the E.V. Williams Engineering and Computational Sciences Building and is already winning rave reviews from the university’s research community.

A teraflop equals 1,000 gigaflops and is a measure of performance that Zorka can attain when running even at partial capacity. (An average desktop system peaks near 5 gigaflops.) The new, Dell high-performance cluster can deliver the data crunching required for complex studies and simulations in fields such as aerospace engineering, mathematics, oceanography and bioelectric engineering.

Michael Sachon, assistant director for research computing in the Office of Computing and Communications Services (OCCS), said the Zorka cluster is rated at 1.5 teraflops and comprises:

- Forty compute nodes, each with two 3-gigahertz dual Intel processors and 8 gigabytes of memory, providing 160 processor cores for parallel or serial applications.
- Four symmetric multiprocessor (SMP) nodes with 2.4 gigahertz quad-core processors and 32 gigabytes of memory, providing 64 additional processor cores for large, shared memory applications.
- Four input/output (I/O) nodes supplying disk space to research applications: 9 terabytes of parallel file system disk and 3 terabytes of network file system (NFS) disk.

Zorka offers the nifty combination of high-performance computing and fast disk space within the cluster to allow applications to run at very high speed and with low latency. This setup solves a problem akin to traffic congestion that researchers have encountered with the university’s older equipment.

- A 20 gigahertz-second Infiniband fabric connecting the compute nodes and I/O nodes.

Defined in planer language, Zorka offers the nifty combination of high-performance computing with fast disk space within the cluster to allow applications to run at very high speed and with low latency. This setup solves a problem akin to traffic congestion that researchers have encountered with the university’s older equipment. Sachon refers to it as a “bottleneck in the link between the compute processors and the external disk space,” during peak usage, was like the Hamptons Bridge-Tunnel on a clusterto allow applications to run at very high speed and fast disk space withinthe nifty combination of high-performance computing and bioelectric engineering.

Michael Sachon, assistant director for research computing in the Office of Computing and Communications Services, said the Zorka cluster is rated at 1.5 teraflops. He added that he and his colleagues in the Research Computing Group were surprised that they were able to implement this architecture within their budget constraints. The ODU experts worked on the project with a Dell Inc. group led by major account manager Tim Wilkinson. “Tim and his Dell team were very supportive of what we wanted to do from a technology perspective, and also understood our need to have maintenance for the equipment for its life cycle,” Sachon said. “We are very appreciative of Dell working with us to advance our research computing.”

Wilkinson was pleased with the outcome, as well, and said in a telephone interview, “Mike and his team deserve praise too.”

The name Zorka, derived from a name of another ODU computer cluster, Mileva. Albert Einstein’s first wife, Mileva Maric Einstein, had a younger sister, Zorka.

Other than Sachon, the university’s Research Computing Group includes Ruben Igloria, who focuses on high-performance computing applications and is the lead systems administrator; Mahan Liu, Halappanavar, who focuses on parallel programming and grid computing; Amit Kumar, who focuses on parallel applications and cluster and research storage; and George McLeod, a systems engineer for Geographic Information Systems.

The team set out to deliver technological advancements that are found in modern supercomputers, such as multicore processors, fast-disk I/O and high-speed interconnects. Another goal was a scalable architecture. For example, Zorka’s chassis for its Infiniband switch can be scaled up to 164 ports and has a capacity of 5.76 terabits/second.

“Although only 48 ports were initially purchased, we can add new servers to this architecture very economically and each server will have access to 12 terabytes of disk space delivered over Infiniband,” Sachon said. Since many science and engineering applications are sensitive to communication latency, they can greatly benefit from the high-speed Infiniband switch. The system has been built to efficiently address serial applications with large memory requirements, as well as parallel applications built for shared memory or distributed memory architectures.

ODU’s high-performance computing team has installed many science and engineering applications for the research community including Abaqus, Ansys, Charmm, Fluent, Gromacs, Matlab, Quant, SuperLU, and Bioinformatics tools such as ClustaFW, EMBoss, HMMER, MrBayes and MPI-BLAST. Zorka has both GNU and Intel compilers, and scientific libraries such as Intel MKL, ATLAS, FFTW, GotoBLAS and GSL. The team can assist users with deploying and running their applications.

Zorka can be accessed via three log-in nodes that use round-robin domain name system (DNS) load balancing to distribute users across the three servers. The light-weight directory access protocol (LDAP)-based authentication system allows users to log in with a MIDAS username and password.

The Research Computing Group has prepared a user guide for Zorka. This and other information about the cluster can be obtained by sending an e-mail to msachon@odu.edu or riglorias@odu.edu.

Joshi, Laroussi become latest IEEE Fellows

Ravindra Joshi and Mourir Laroussi, whose research has helped to advance bioelectric and biomedical applications of cold plasmas, have been elected as Fellows of the international Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

A citation from the IEEE board of directors said Joshi’s elevation to Fellow was for his contributions in “bioelectrics and simulation of cellular responses to pulsed power excitation.”

Laroussi received the honor for contributions to “biomedical applications of low-temperature, atmospheric-pressure plasmas.”

The men, both of whom are professors of electrical and computer engineering in the Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology, join Karl Schoenbach, the Batten Endowed Chair in Bioelectric Engineering, as holders of the prestigious title. According to the IEEE, “The grade of Fellow recognizes unusual distinction in the profession and shall be conferred only by invitation of the board of directors upon a person of outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in IEEE-designated fields, and who has made important individual contributions to one or more of these fields.”

Joshi, who was named a University Professor in 2007, joined ODU in 1989. He received the 2005 Martin Black Prize from the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine.

His research encompasses modeling and simulations in the areas of bioelectrics and biophysics; charge transport in semiconductors, liquids and gases; non-equilibrium high-field phenomena, including breakdown physics; and biocellular mechanisms such as apoptosis and signal transduction.

Laroussi joined the Applied Research Center in 1998 as a research scientist and was promoted to professor in 2008. He has been director of the Laser and Plasma Engineering Institute since 1997.

The holder of four patents, Laroussi is well known in his field for his invention of an easy-to-use cold plasma pencil. The device has been displayed in national and international journals, television reports and magazines as a dependable instrument that can employ a plasma plume to kill germs without harming healthy tissue.
Subculture awareness
Nursing professors’ journal article gives advice on counseling troubled Goth teenagers

BY JIM RAPER

What’s a school nurse to do when the patient who has been referred for treatment is a black-garbed teenager who has purple-streaked hair, dozens of body piercings and tattoos, a surfeit of dark sarcasm and a raging infection of a self-inflicted cut on the arm?

Two Old Dominion nursing faculty members and a former police detective provide answers in their journal article, “Vulnerable Goth Teens: The Role of Schools in This Psychosocial High-Risk Culture.”

Carolyn Rutledge, associate professor of nursing, and Micah Scott, a senior nursing lecturer and coordinator of ODU’s nurse practitioner program, teamed up with former Virginia Beach police detective Don Rimer to write the article for the September 2008 issue of the Journal of School Health.

The purposes of the article, according to the authors, are to describe characteristics of Goth teens, identify psychosocial risks for these teens and describe actions that school personnel can take to minimize the risks.

For Rutledge, the focus on Goth teens emerged from a series of grants totaling more than $3 million – that ODU nursing faculty members have received to help medical professionals and nursing educators understand the ways cultural diversity can affect health care. These projects, most of which have been funded by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, have established ODU’s School of Nursing as a leading designer of training programs that address potential clashes and miscues between health-care professionals and certain types of patients.

The cultural awareness projects have been led by Rutledge, as well as Richarden Benjamin, chair of the School of Nursing, and Laurel Garzon, associate professor of nursing.

The researchers insist on a broad definition for culture. “I have a problem being too narrow with the definition,” Rutledge said. “It involves a lot more than ethnicity.” In fact, she often refers to “subcultures” and “people of similar orientation” in order to describe groups – teenage Goths, overweight older women and gay people, for example – who often report unsatisfactory health care experiences.

During their research, the faculty members recognized that nursing students found it difficult to build rapport with a “patient” who played the role of a young Goth who looked and acted like a social misfit.

Rutledge said this experience persuaded her to look more closely into the interaction between Goth youths and the health-care system.

When he was a police detective, Rimer earned a reputation as an expert investigator of self-inflicted injuries. “They surround themselves with people, music, Web sites and activities that foster angry or depressed feelings. They have a higher prevalence of depression, self-harm, suicide and violence than non-Goth teens.”

The article makes a specific point about the range of diversity within the Goth subculture, and advises that nurses and other school personnel such as counselors should not assume students who are mainly interested in the theatricality and artistic expression of the culture with more alienated youths who practice behaviors that pose dangers to themselves or to others.

For school nurses and counselors, the focus must be on how to identify at-risk teens and how to decide what interventions are appropriate, the authors state. A critical mission for the school personnel is to assess the likelihood of self-harm, suicide or other types of violent behavior.

Research cited in the article shows that teens associated with the Goth subculture are five times more likely than others of their age to participate in self-harming activities, and that boys are more likely to do so than girls. School personnel are advised that the cutting, scratching, scoring and burning often is done on the arm opposite the hand with which the teen writes, and that Goths may wear long sleeves to hide festering lesions. But even more important than identifying and treating an infected cut would be the observation by a teacher, counselor or nurse that a student’s self-harming activities indicate he or she is drifting deeper into depression or toward more violent actions.

Tell-tale signs of a troubled Goth teen are best detected by “school nurses and counselors (who) develop a rapport that shows concern and a true desire to help,” according to the authors. “They must approach the student from a nonthreatening manner that is free from judgment. School nurses and counselors should provide for confidentiality based on ground rules that state that the information will be kept confidential unless there is a risk of harm for the student or others.”

In questioning for informal assessments are offered by the authors, as well as a list of formal assessment tools, such as the Children’s Depression Scale and the Suicidal Ideation Questionnaire, that can be employed. Some of the formal instruments are completed not only by the teen, but also by his or her parents and teachers.

The authors also suggest that school nurses and counselors may want to become acquainted with therapists, health-care providers and law enforcement personnel in their communities who can provide support services for troubled Goth teens. Conversely, the same school personnel can be a community resource services themselves by gathering “sound, empirically based information” about the Goth subculture and, thereby, helping to separate fact from the fiction that can create subculture legends.

When school nurses and counselors develop a network of helpers in the community, they can serve as liaisons between a student, the student’s parents, teachers and health-care personnel, according to the article. This may lead to school personnel helping to organize community programs, perhaps involving conflict resolution, that address teen issues and problems.

“Programs that work best include the family, peers and the community,” the authors state.

Finally, the authors suggest an important role for school nurses or counselors in the aftermath of a student committing suicide or another act of violence. “As other students learn about the activities of a classmate, those who have a tendency toward similar actions are more likely to follow through on their plans. It is vital that the school nurse or counselor has providers available to help the students deal with their thoughts surrounding such issues.”

Subcultures and identifies the range of diversity within the Goth subculture.

Nursing professors’ journal article gives advice on counseling troubled Goth teenagers

The purposes of the article, according to Carolyn Rutledge, left, and her co-authors, are to describe characteristics of Goth teens, identify psychosocial risks for these teens and describe actions that school personnel can take to minimize the risks.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK THOMAS AND TOBI NOBBS

Homecoming '08
Lights, Camera, Action!

Homecoming Week was filled with activities that were capped off by a parade, men’s basketball game and dance on Nov. 22. Dylessa Hampton and Phillip McCaIff, left, represent the class of 2012 in the parade, which featured 37 units. At right, acting President John Broderick and his wife, Kate, ODU’s assistant director of disability services, take a ride along the parade route on Monarch Way. Despite the cold weather, hundreds from the campus and local communities lined the street to take in the spectacle, which included, for the first time, the Monarch Marching Band. More than 600 people attended a Family Weekend breakfast earlier in the day.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK THOMAS AND TOBI NOBBS
Thursday, Jan. 22
Spring Organizations Fair, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Webb Ctr.
Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

Thursday, Jan. 24
Town Hall Meeting: Disproportionate Minority Contract/Confinement in the Juvenile Justice System,” with keynote address by Mark Bickler, former director of the Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program and current director of juvenile justice and system reform at Georgetown University, sponsored by ODU Institute for Community Justice and city of Norfolk, 9 a.m. to noon, BAL auditorium.

Workshops
Tuesday, Jan. 6
Blackboard Content Marathon, “Managing the Course Content,” Ct. for Learning Technologies, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (all day or part of the day), 411 Gornto. Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

Wednesday, Jan. 7
Blackboard Collaboration Marathon, “Tools for Student Engagement,” Ct. for Learning Technologies, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (all day or part of the day), 411 Gornto. Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

Thursday, Jan. 8
Blackboard Assessment Marathon, “Traditional and Alternate Methods,” Ct. for Learning Technologies, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (all day or part of the day), 411 Gornto. Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

Friday, Jan. 9

“Teaching in a Technology Classroom,” a lesson on using the specific technology in your assigned spring classroom for instruction, Ct. for Learning Technologies, 11:30-11:45 a.m. or 1-1:15 p.m., 2099 Constant Hall or 2056 BAL. Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

“Orientation to Video Streaming and the Broadcast Classroom,” Ct. for Learning Technologies, 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 411 Gornto. Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

“Teaching in a Technology Classroom,” a lesson on using the specific technology in your assigned spring classroom for instruction, Ct. for Learning Technologies, 11:30-11:45 a.m. or 1-1:15 p.m., 2099 Constant Hall or 2056 BAL. Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

Tuesday, Jan. 13
Blackboard Collaboration Marathon, “Tools for Student Engagement,” Ct. for Learning Technologies, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (all day or part of the day), 411 Gornto. Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

“Teaching in a Technology Classroom,” a lesson on using the specific technology in your assigned spring classroom for instruction, Ct. for Learning Technologies, 11:30-11:45 a.m. or 1-1:15 p.m., 2099 Constant Hall or 2056 BAL. Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

Wednesday, Jan. 14
Blackboard Assessment Marathon, “Traditional and Alternate Methods,” Ct. for Learning Technologies, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (all day or part of the day), 411 Gornto. Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

Thursday, Jan. 15
“Teaching in a Technology Classroom,” a lesson on using the specific technology in your assigned spring classroom for instruction, Ct. for Learning Technologies, 11:30-11:45 a.m. or 1-1:15 p.m., 2099 Constant Hall or 2056 BAL. Registration: http://clt.odu.edu/facdev.683-3172

Miscellaneous
Saturday, Dec. 13
Commencement, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Constant Ctr., with address by Gov. Tim Kaine to graduates from the colleges of Arts and Letters, Business and Public Administration, and Health Sciences at the morning ceremony, and by Washington Post columnist Kathy Nevins, grounds supervisor. He added that he hope- ful the students can return in the spring to learn some turfgrass techniques.

Sunday, Dec. 14
Women’s basketball vs. N.C. Central, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18
Women’s basketball vs. Tennessee, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20
Men’s basketball vs. Winthrop, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21
Women’s basketball vs. Maryland, 1 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 22
Men’s basketball vs. Maryland, Eastern Shore, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 30
Men’s basketball vs. Winston-Salem State, 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 5
Women’s basketball vs. VCU, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 7
Men’s basketball vs. JMU, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 13
Men’s basketball vs. Georgia State, 9 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15
Men’s basketball vs. UMBC, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 18
Women’s basketball vs. Georgia State, noon.

Wednesday, Jan. 21
Men’s basketball vs. UNC-Wilmington, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24
Men’s basketball vs. Northeastern, TBA.

Sunday, Jan. 25
Women’s basketball vs. JMU, 7 p.m.

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Flower power
Torya McDaniel, left, superint of Old Dominion’s landscape crew, instructs two of the students from the Norfolk Technical Center horticulture class on the planting of winter annu- als, at the corner of 49th Street and Phoebus Avenue. ODU’s grounds division invited the stu- dents to campus to expose them to typical work tasks they would encounter while working in professional horticulture.

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Anne Donovan to receive Naismith contributor award
Longtime women’s college and profes- sional basketball player, coach and Olymian Anne Donovan, a 1983 graduate of Old Dominion and recent Olympic gold medal winner as coach of the U.S. women’s basketball team, and decorated men’s col- lege basketball broadcaster Billy Packer, have been selected as the Naismith Women’s and Men’s Outstanding Contributor to Basketball recipients, respectively, by the Atlanta Tipoff Club.

Created in 1982, the award is presented annually to two individuals whose extraor- dinary efforts have made contributions of outstanding significance and have created a long-lasting positive impact on the game of basketball.

Recipients of the award must display character, integrity and dignity, and have contributed mightily to the growth, success and viability of basketball. To be eligible, an individual must have been involved with the sport in a capacity related to coaching, broadcasting, college administration or the news media.

Donovan and Packer will be honored at the Atlanta Tipoff Club Naismith Awards banquet in March.

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**Coming Soon to “The Ted”**

Friday, Jan. 2
Lynyrd Skynyrd, 7:30 p.m., $36 to $56

Sat., Feb. 28 & Sun., March 1
Hedwig & the Angry Inch, 7 p.m., Sat., 2 p.m., Sun, $20 to $94

Tickets may be purchased through COXTIX.com, at the Constant Center Box Office or by phone at 888-1-COXTIX.

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**Give Hope Through the CVC**

Remember to support your favorite charities with a gift to the 2008 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign.
The University Village continues to evolve, and just got a bit sweeter with the recent addition of Norfolk Ice Cream Company, located next to Zero's on Market Way behind the Convent.

Ice cream parlor opens in Univ. Village

In addition, Norfolk Ice Cream Company offers frozen ice cream specialty drinks, including blended coffee ice cream drinks, blended ice cream toppings, and nonfat frozen yogurt, dipped premium ice cream, and custom-order ice cream in a variety of special shapes.

The shop is open from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 2-9 p.m. Sunday.

Grants and Contracts

Crum


Crum

Khattak


Khattak

The Research Foundation announces the following grants and contracts for September and October. Award amounts are total limits expected for the entire funding period. The list does not include supplements, modifications or other changes to existing grants or contracts. For awards with a secondary role, the name of the first faculty member listed is the principal investigator.

JULIAN ASHFORD, research assistant professor, ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences, “Collaborative Research: Possible Climate Induced Change in the Distribution of Phytoplankton autistic on the Western Antarctic Peninsula Shelf”, National Science Foundation, $203,000. Also, “Spatial Structure and Connectivity in Populations of Jack Mackerel, Trachurus murphyi, as the Southern Pacific Ocean”, Chilida Fishing Development Institute, $2,765.


JAMES BOW, associate professor of psychology, “Establishing an Intellectual and Theoretical Foundation for the After Action Review Process as Practiced Within the U.S. Army”, Myme LLC, $16,000.

COLIN BRITCHER, chair of aerospace engineering, “VPF: Virginia Polytechnic and Industrial Laboratory; VPIF Phase II (B)”, Virginia Tobacco Independence and Community Revitalization Commission, $432,470. Co-PIs are ERIC KOSTER, director of motorsports operations, Langley Full Scale Wind Tunnel, and FRED LOFEE, senior lecturer of engineering technology.

DAVID BURDGE, eminent scholar of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences, “Emerging Topics in Biogeochemical and Material Science Applications”, National Science Foundation, $263,841.

SHARON DAVIS, lecturer, and DAVID NETHERTON, senior lecturer, occupational and technical studies, “Virginia Tech Technical Assistance”, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services, $49,000.

STEPHEN DEMOS, senior consultant engineering, Virginia Applied Technology and Professional Development Center, ”Coating”; NASA Langley Research Center, $40,000.


ANDREA DERBUN-PARECKI, associate professor of early childhood, speech-language pathology and special education, “Developing Precreators’ Comprehension Skills Using Supported Strategy Instruction, Modeling and Activity-based Learning”, Old Dominion University, $200,000.


ABDELMAGED ELMUSTAF, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, and HANI ELSAYED-ALLI, eminent scholar of electrical and computer engineering, “Fabrication of Transparent Wireless Sensor Using Micromachined Indium Tin Oxide Conductive Coating”, NASA Langley Research Center, $40,000.

HOLLY GAGE, assistant professor of community and environmental health, “From Syndromic to Disease-specific Surveillance”, University of Virginia, $369,000.

LAUREL GARZON, associate professor of nursing, “Nurse Training Programs”, Old Dominion University, $73,808.

ASEFAW GERMEDEHIN, postdoctoral researcher associate computer science, “Combinatorial Algorithms for Computational Science and Engineering”, Purdue University, $47,700.

PATRICK HATCHER, bitten Endowed Chair in physical sciences, “Molecular Study of Organic Molecules and their Interaction with the High Resolution Mass Spectrometry and AFT-FTIR Approaches”, University of Miami, $90,000.

JULIO HAU, assistant professor, and GENE HOU, professor, mechanical engineering, “Robust Design of High Performance MEMS Rotators”, National Science Foundation, $343,762.

RICHARD HELLER, director, Frank Reidy Research Center for Biocolorics, “Electric Gene Transfer for Coronary Artery Disease”, U.S. Public Health Service (including NIH), $737,859.


WALTER JONES, professor of biology, “IPA for Alan Avrutin”; National Science Foundation, $133,744.

ASAAD KHATAT, professor of civil and environmental engineering, “National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) Survey Tasks”; Virginia Department of Transportation, $67,566.


DREW LANDMAN, associate professor of aerospace engineering, “Continuation of NASA Task 5124A Statistical Modeling and Uncertainty Analysis of Mars Entry Atmospheric Data System”; National Institute of Standards and Technology, $108,000. Also, “Support to USF/COM Joint Innovation and Experimentation Capabilities Solutions Group PHMSI; Cultural Dynamics”, $29,967; and “USF/COM Network Support Group”; Navy FSC, $272,923. Also, “Student, Faculty and Fellows Engagement and Technical Services Support”, Navy FSC, $117,672. VMASC co-PIs are: CATHERINE BANKS, social science cluster leader; YANISI PAPAD, computational science cluster leader; JOSHUA BEHR, research associate professor, and MICHAEL MCGINNIS, executive director. Also, with SOLGOMON SHERRY, associate professor of statistics, VMASC, “Shore Force Training Center Modeling and Simulation Requirements Study”, Alien Science and Technology Corp., $13,633.

SUZAN THOMPSON, visiting assistant professor, DANA BURNETT, chair, and TED REMLET, professor, educational leadership and counseling, “Community-Based Counseling in Partnership with the Norfolk Community Services Board”; Norfolk Community Services Board, $60,000.


JERRY ROBERTSON, the Virginia Applied Technology and Professional Development Center, “VPMEP-VATPDC FY09”; AL. Phlipmont Enterprises, $150,000.


JOhN SOKOLOWSKI, director of research, Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center, “Bottle Lab 2.0 (Supplement)” (Owling Funding on JFWC-JTCC), Navy Fleet Industrial Supply Center, $21,000.


RICHARD WARGO, director, Troops to Teachers, “Troops to Teachers - Year 5”, U.S. Department of Defense, $54,435.

GINGER WATSON, associate professor of educational curriculum and instruction, “Shipboard Simulator and Motion Science Simulation”, SA Photonics, $21,000.


MIRA MARIANO, senior lecturer in Old Dominion’s School of Physical Therapy.