Restructured film festival goes competitive; more than 30 indie films to be screened

BY LANE DARE

A
der an 11-year run as a retrospective film festival, the 2009 Old Dominion University – City of Norfolk (ONFilm) Festival has gone competitive, and will screen more than 30 top independent films from around the world.

The ONFilm Festival, which runs from March 25-28, features independently produced features, documentaries, shorts and short-shorts on the campus and in various Norfolk venues. Visit www.onfilmfest.com for more information and complete schedule.

Academy Award-winning actor Richard Dreyfuss will start festivalgoers talking with “A Conversation with Richard Dreyfuss,” hosted by Cathy Lewis of WHRV-FM’s “HearSay.” The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, in the Big Blue Room of the Ted Constant Convocation Center. It is free and open to the public. The doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Film producer Stephen Israel will chair the festival jury. The panel of judges comprises film directors and producers, as well as film industry executives, and includes Virginian-Pilot film critic Mal Vincent. Jury profiles are available on the festival Web site.

Israel, who is probably best known for executive-producing the critically acclaimed sleeper hit “Swimming with Sharks,” starring Kevin Spacey, is a prominent figure in the film festival world, having served as a programmer for both Outfest and the Slamdance Film Festival, for which he currently serves on the advisory board.

Slamdance takes place each year in Utah at the same time as the Sundance Film Festival, competing with Sundance to provide what its supporters consider a truer representation of independent filmmaking, and is known as a festival “by filmmakers for filmmakers.” This is the model of the newly independent ONFilm Festival.

The festival will screen films simultaneously in three venues from March 26-28, including panel discussions with the filmmakers and special events. The ONFilmFest Winners Marathon is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Naro Cinema in Norfolk, with the closing awards gala later in the day at 7 p.m. at Norfolk’s Granby Theater.

Screenings are $5 for students and $10 for the general public. Admission to the awards gala is $10 for students and $20 for the general public.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, March 25
“A Conversation with Richard Dreyfuss” (see story below)
Thursday, March 26
Meet producer Stephen Israel and see “Swimming with Sharks” • 5-7 p.m. – Screening of “Swimming with Sharks,” University Theatre (students $5 / general public $10)
(See ONFILM FESTIVAL, Page 6)

Richard Dreyfuss to kick off festival March 25

Academy Award-winning actor Richard Dreyfuss will kick off the ONFilm Festival Wednesday, March 25, with a free program at the Ted Constant Convocation Center. “A Conversation with Richard Dreyfuss,” moderated by Cathy Lewis of WHRV-FM’s “HearSay,” will take place in the Big Blue Room from 7:30-8:30 p.m. An audience Q&A and reception, featuring the ODU Jazz Ensemble and a cash bar, will follow. Audience members are encouraged to arrive early to ensure seating. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for a reception in the Constant Center lobby. For more information, visit www.onfilmfest.com or call 683-3617.

According to the Internet Movie Data Base, Dreyfuss has played his fair share of leading roles as irritating pests and brash, ambitious hustlers. He worked his way up through bit parts in movies – “The Graduate,” 1967, for one – and television before gaining attention with his portrayal of Baby Face Nelson in John Milius’ “Dillinger” (1973). He gained prominence as a college-bound young man in “American Graffiti” (1973).

Over the last three decades, his film credits have included: “Jaws” (1975); “Close Encounters of the Third Kind” (1977); “The Goodbye Girl” (1977), for which he won the Best Actor Oscar; “The Big Fix” (1978); “Down and Out in Beverly Hills” (1986); “Nuts” (1987); “What About Bob?” (1991); “Mr. Holland’s Opus” (1995); and “W.” (2008).

Let the games – and the workouts – begin. Old Dominion’s much-anticipated Student Recreation Center (SRC) is now open for business.

The facility, located on the site of the old field house at the west end of campus, opened its doors on March 2. And because classes were canceled that day due to the weather, the center got quite a workout itself, with upwards of 900 students taking advantage of its many amenities – everything from basketball courts, to exercise equipment, to racquetball courts to indoor track.

“Of course there are going to be bugs,” said happy Kevin Marbury the following day. “I was overwhelmed – in a good way. There was a tremendous sense of satisfaction in watching people’s faces as they walked around the facility, played on the courts and used the equipment. It was so gratifying. And our skeleton staff did an awesome job of handling things.”

Marbury, ODU’s director of recreation-sports, is in charge of the center, which he loves to show off. “The science, sport, physical education and recreation department also maintains offices and classrooms in the building.”

“This is going to provide our students a place to play and socialize. It’s going to become one of the new popular hangouts on campus,” Marbury said, who notes that the building offers WiFi access. A bagel and juice bar, Einstein’s Bagels, will open in the fall.

But don’t let the name fool you. The new center is also open to faculty and staff, who can use the facility without charge through the end of June. After that, employees will need to purchase an annual membership, which is expected to range from $15 to $20 per month, according to Marbury.

For the next few months, Marbury and his SRC staff will be monitoring usage to determine the facility’s hours of operation in the future. The center will be open at the following times March 16-31:
• Monday-Thursday – 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.
• Friday – 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
• Saturday – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“ODU’s new state-of-the-art recreation (See RECREATION CENTER, Page 7)
President Broderick to receive VCIC Humanitarian Award

Acting President John Broderick is one of four area residents who will be honored at the 45th annual Tidewater Humanitarian Awards Dinner, sponsored by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, on Thursday, April 2.

Broderick, along with Charles Henderson Jr., Hampton Roads president, Bank of America; Miriam Seherman, community activist; and Louisa Strayhorn, business consultant and community volunteer, will receive awards in recognition of their humanitarian contributions. The awards dinner and program will be at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott.

The awards are presented to individuals who have demonstrated a personal commitment to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Since the inception of the Tidewater awards in 1965, nearly 200 individuals have been recognized for their contributions.

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is a human relations organization that promotes inclusion, challenges assumptions and advances understanding through dialogue, experiential learning and education. It was originally founded as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and was known more recently as the National Conference for Community and Justice.

Men’s, women’s golf leagues forming at L. Point course

Lambert’s Point Golf Club is offering six-week golf leagues for men and women this spring. The men’s league begins Monday, April 13, and the women’s league on Tuesday, April 14.

Participants will be asked to sign up 48 hours in advance each week. Weekly fees are $13 for walking nine holes and $17 for riding nine holes. There is a six-week discount fee of $60 and $90, respectively. Tee times are from 4:30-5:30 p.m. each week.

To register, contact Michelle Holmes at michelle.gofler@yahoo.com, or apply in person at the golf shop.

Consultant to report on institutional review April 2

Stephen Portch of Pappas Consulting Group, the firm retained by the Board of Visitors to conduct an institutional review to help guide the university’s strategic planning process and presidential search efforts, will give a report at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 2, as part of the board’s regular meeting.

The presentation, which will be in the Webb Center Board Room, is open to the public. Following a closed session and a working lunch after the presentation, the full board will reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

A joint session of the board’s Academic and Research Advancement and Administration and Finance committees will be held from 9:45 a.m. to noon at the James-Lynnhaven River Room of Webb Center for a budget discussion and review of the proposed tuition and fee schedules.

Women’s Caucus hosting Q&A with president

The University Women’s Caucus invites all members of the campus community to attend a “Conversation with the President” from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, in the Hampton-Newport News Room of Webb Center.

The brown-bag lunch program will include a question-and-answer session with John Broderick, who has served as acting president since June of last year. For more information call Morel Fry at 683-4143.

Field hockey team gets national honor for academics

The field hockey team was honored by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) on Feb. 23 as one of 65 Division I field hockey programs earning a National Academic Team Award for attaining a team grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The Lady Monarchs boasted the second-highest GPA among all Division I field hockey programs, compiling a team average of 3.47.

During fall 2008, the ODU team had 13 of its members named to the dean’s list, including senior Katelyn Smither of Suffolk and junior Kathleen Shea of Elizaville, N.Y., both of whom were named to the all-conference first team.

Since 1989, the ODU field hockey team has earned a GPA of 3.0 or better. This year, 16 players were named to the NFHCA Division I Academic Squad.

M.B.A. grad to return for Landmark Speaker Series

Old Dominion alumna Melissa Buffington, senior vice president of human resources and communications for Gaylord Entertainment Co. in Nashville, will give a talk on campus Tuesday, March 31, for the College of Business and Public Administration’s Landmark Executive-in-Residence Speakers Series.

The program, which starts at 12:30 p.m. in 1005 of Constant Hall, is free and open to students, faculty and staff, and to the public as space permits.

Buffington, who earned her M.B.A. at the university in 1994, is the final speaker for the spring edition of the series, which will have featured four ODU alumni, including three M.B.A. graduates.

Diehn Concert Series features pianist Peter Takacs

Peter Takacs, professor of piano and chair of the piano program at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, will give the next Diehn Diehn Concert Series performance at 8 p.m. Monday, March 30, in the Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Takacs frequently performs at chamber music festivals in the U.S. and abroad. Tickets are $10 for students and $15 for the general public.

Nominations due soon for HACE employee awards

Nominations are due Friday, March 27, for the Hourly and Classified Employees Association’s Staff Member and Rookie Staff Member of the Year awards.

The awards will be presented at the HACE annual luncheon in May.

For a nomination form or more information, contact Sarah Daniel-Ash at sdaniel@odu.edu or 683-3080.

New Kansas State president has ties to Old Dominion

Kirk Schulz, who studied for three years at Old Dominion and whose father, Carl, has been on the ODU mathematics faculty for 40 years, was named Feb. 11 as president of Kansas State University. He had been vice president of research and economic development at Mississippi State University.

Schulz, 45, received bachelor’s and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from Virginia Tech after attending ODU.

At Mississippi State he also served as dean of the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering.

Kansas State, which has 23,000 students, has its main campus in Manhattan, 120 miles west of Kansas City. Schulz will succeed John Wefald, who is retiring after 23 years as the university’s president.

Carl Schulz is an assistant professor of mathematics and statistics at ODU.

Groups sought to take part in Earth Day program

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety will sponsor an Earth Day program — “What’s ODU Doing Green?” — in the North Mall of Webb Center on Tuesday, April 21.

Groups that are interested in showcasing their efforts to create a more sustainable environment at the university should contact Frank Dzupinka at fdzupin@odu.edu.

Join the Great Bag Roundup and help the environment

Want to do something good for the environment? Join the students in the Great Bag Roundup, sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership.

From April 1 until May 8, members of the campus community are invited to purchase their plastic shopping bags for recycling at the Center for Service and Civic Engagement in Webb Center.

For more information contact Tami Park at tpark@odu.edu.

Social media is topic for CLT Summer Institute

The Center for Learning Technologies’ Summer Institute, Web 2.0: Social Media and ODU, will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19-20, in Webb Center.

All faculty, teaching assistants and students are invited. A pre-institute technology fair will be offered on Monday, May 18.

The Courier is published monthly for the faculty, staff, students and friends of Old Dominion University by the Office of Institutional Advancement. John R. Broderick, Publisher, for institutional advancement and admissions.

Letters to the editor and manuscripts for Associated Press style and available space. The Courier is published monthly for the faculty, staff, students and friends of Old Dominion University by the Office of Institutional Advancement. John R. Broderick, Publisher, for institutional advancement and admissions.
Broderick letter outlines budget outcomes

Old Dominion University received $12.8 million in one-time federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to mitigate the need for significant tuition and fee increases for in-state students and to offset on a one-time basis some of the FY2010 budget reductions. The federal stimulus funds had a significant impact on our state and university budgets. Although this was a one-time allocation, these funds will help support our immediate resource needs. All in all, Old Dominion University fared well in this budget session and will benefit from the following allocations:

• $1.4 million increase in state financial support during the session, and I would encourage you to write and thank our Governor, the Secretary of Education and your legislators for their support of Old Dominion University and of higher education in general.

• Would you talk about if you were about to give your last lecture? That's what nine Old Dominion faculty members have wrestled with in developing talks for the university's first-ever Last Lecture Series. Inspired by a taped lecture, and then a book, by the late Carnegie Mellon University professor Randy Pausch, the lecture series is sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement. Vicki Bonner, associate director of student engagement and development, says the lecture series is an effort to help students connect with their instructors on a level beyond professor-pupil.

• These are amazing, smart, talented people, with diverse interests and passions,” Bonner said. “We wanted a chance for our students to see them as more than people who talk at them in class.”

• “We honor them. We remember them. ‘We give meaning to their lives and their work,’ ” she added. “When Bonner suggested the idea to ODU faculty members last fall, she was shocked at how many of them were excited to participate.

• “I put the inquiry out on a Friday afternoon, asking if anyone would be interested in our own Last Lecture Series. I had three volunteers by the end of the day,” Bonner said. “There were actually more professors who wanted to participate than we had space for this year, so we’ve already started to plan next fall’s program.”

Last Lecture Series continues this month

BY BRENDA O’HALLARN

What would you talk about if you were about to give your last lecture? That’s what nine Old Dominion faculty members have wrestled with in developing talks for the university’s first-ever Last Lecture Series. Inspired by a taped lecture, and then a book, by the late Carnegie Mellon University professor Randy Pausch, the lecture series is sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement. Vicki Bonner, associate director of student engagement and development, says the lecture series is an effort to help students connect with their instructors on a level beyond professor-pupil.

“These are amazing, smart, talented people, with diverse interests and passions,” Bonner said. “We wanted a chance for our students to see them as more than people who talk at them in class.”

When Bonner suggested the idea to ODU faculty members last fall, she was shocked at how many of them were excited to participate.

“I put the inquiry out on a Friday afternoon, asking if anyone would be interested in our own Last Lecture Series. I had three volunteers by the end of the day,” Bonner said. “There were actually more professors who wanted to participate than we had space for this year, so we’ve already started to plan next fall’s program.”

Elizabeth Leor, an ODU graduate who has been an associate professor of art since 2001, is a talk, “I Will Get Out of Bed and Go to Class on Time! And Other Daily Affirmations” Feb. 17.


Upcoming talks include:


• “Stress – Management and the Art of Relaxation,” by Jean Roberts, instructor of English, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, James/Lynnhaven River Room, Webb Center.


• “The Heroic Quest: Mythology as a Model for Interpreting Life,” by Cecilia Petrizzo, instructor of English, noon Monday, April 6, James/Lynnhaven River Room, Webb Center.

• “Mathemagic – Magic Tricks with Mathematical Solutions,” by Robert Srozek, lecturer of mathematics and statistics, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, 1009 Constant Hall.

Randy Pausch gave his talk Sept. 18, 2007, after receiving a terminal prognosis for the pancreatic cancer with which he had been diagnosed over a year earlier.

In an upbeat and humorous speech, Pausch offered his students advice that could be applied to their personal and professional life. Shortly after the lecture, he wrote a book to better educate people about his methods for living a more fulfilling life, by sharing his personal and professional life.

The talks are free for ODU students, but registration is due to limited space. Students may register at: http://studentaffairs.odu.edu/lastlectureseries.

Spring career fair open to immediate family members of faculty and staff

There’s a new twist to the Career Management Center’s annual spring career fair, scheduled for Wednesday, March 18. In recognition of the downturn in the economy, Old Dominion University’s CMC is opening the fair for the first time to the immediate family members of students, faculty, staff and alumni.

It’s an effort both “to do the right thing” in these uncertain times, and to heed the principles of supply and demand – attracting as many employers as possible to the fair by guaranteeing a critical mass of potential candidates, said Tony Wunderlich, assistant dean of career management.

“Opening the fair to the immediate family members is new, so it means, for example, that if students, even freshmen, have parents who are out of work, they can bring them. Or if staff members have students at other institutions, they can bring them, and if alumni have a spouse out of work or a student at another school, they are welcome as well.”

Wunderlich expects more than 100 recruiting companies – from major companies, to nonprofits, to the health-care industry – to fill the arena floor at the Ted Constant Convocation Center for the fair, which will run from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Preregistration is not required; however, an ODU student, faculty member, staff member or alumnus must accompany their immediate family member for registration at the door. It is not necessary for the sponsoring member of the ODU community to stay at the fair.

Wunderlich expects up to 1,500 students, faculty, staff, alumni and family members to attend the spring fair. And the advice to immediate family members is the same as for the students: attend for dress for success, and bring resumes and portfolios.

Because of the economy, the number of employers at the career fair will likely be down about 20 to 25 percent, but we still will have over 100 employers recruiting.

This is a major event, and it’s the biggest career fair in the region. We don’t want students, or anyone else, to pre-empt themselves from an employment opportunity based on what they hear or read in the news about certain companies that are going under or laying off employees.”

All of the employers at the fair will be recruiting for positions that require a bache-lor’s degree or higher. The companies will be represented at the fair, and the types of positions and majors for which they are recruiting, go to www.odsuinternship.com and click on the Spring Career Fair picture.

Clay Vaughan, head of art library, dies

Clay L. Vaughan, the head of the Elise N. Holheimer Art Library, died Feb. 14, 2009, in Norfolk after a brief illness.

Vaughan was a member of the University Libraries staff since 1989, when he was a student assistant in the art library. He worked in Access Services – first in circulation and then as the library assistant – at the Holheimer Center library.

He was born April 4, 1955, attended Granby elementary and high schools, studied philosophy and literature at Virginia Commonwealth University and moved back to Norfolk in 1987 to raise a family.

His knowledge and assistance at the art library was enormously admired and appreciated by students and faculty. Faculty in the art department were among his closest friends.

Vaughan also dedicated his time and energy as managing editor of the POWhatan Review. His passions were art, writing and researching his family’s genealogy, reading literature, biographies and history, and listening to music of all kinds.

Survivors include three daughters, Kaitlin, Hannah and Molly; his parents, Edwin and Alice Vaughan; four brothers, Mark, Billy, Eric and Russell; many nieces, nephews, aunts and cousins, and countless friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the APVA Foundation, 204 W. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23220, or a charity of the donor’s choice. Online condolences may be sent to the family at hdliver.com.
The longest-running, external-grant-supported project at Old Dominion is not aligned with the university’s well-publicized research specialties in engineering and the sciences. Instead, it is a three-decade-long, $20 million program of the Darden College of Education that aims to give every child in eastern Virginia — regardless of disability — an opportunity to receive a high-quality education.

Recent grants totaling $2.5 million from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) pushed the ODU Training and Technical Assistance Center (T-TAC) over $20 million in total funding just as the facility was celebrating its 30th birthday.

“Now the training and other assistance that we offer is more likely to be beneficial to all of the students in a school,” said Robert Gable, also a professor of early childhood and special education and who has earned the designation at ODU of eminent scholar, is the other principal investigator for the grants. He is director, as well, of a statewide T-TAC initiative called Effective Schoolwide Discipline (ESD). What he has seen in his more than a dozen years of ODU T-TAC leadership, he said, is a “disembly of the two-box system” in which special education has been in one box and general education in another.

Statistics for the nation show that around 12 percent of children can be expected to have special needs in school. There was a time when most of these students were taught in separate special education classrooms. Gable said the typical elementary school teacher in Virginia today has three to four students with disabilities. Nationally, fewer and fewer students with disabilities are being taught in separate special education classrooms.

But T-TAC has a mandate to offer training and technical support to any teacher of students with disabilities, almost all teachers now are eligible for the help. And many of the general education teachers are taking advantage of what T-TAC offers, according to ODU T-TAC Director Kerry Lambert, whose affiliation with the center dates to 1980.

“It is particularly satisfying to recognize now that our training and support services ultimately benefit all students,” said Lambert, who became the center’s director in 1995 just after she received her Ph.D. at ODU in urban educational leadership. Previously she had served as a T-TAC staff member and coordinator. Tonelson and Lambert noted, too, that discipline and learning-environment problems are significant among students with special needs and fewer students with disabilities are being taught in separate special education classrooms.

Two centers were added elsewhere in the state in the early days, a special education teacher of students with disabilities, almost all teachers now are eligible for the help. And many of the general education teachers are taking advantage of what T-TAC offers, according to ODU T-TAC Director Kerry Lambert, whose affiliation with the center dates to 1980.

“Now the training and other assistance that we offer is more likely to be beneficial to all of the students in a school,” said Robert Gable, also a professor of early childhood and special education and who has earned the designation at ODU of eminent scholar, is the other principal investigator for the grants. He is director, as well, of a statewide T-TAC initiative called Effective Schoolwide Discipline (ESD). What he has seen in his more than a dozen years of ODU T-TAC leadership, he said, is a “disembly of the two-box system” in which special education has been in one box and general education in another.

Statistics for the nation show that around 12 percent of children can be expected to have special needs in school. There was a time when most of these students were taught in separate special education classrooms. Gable said the typical elementary school teacher in Virginia today has three to four students with disabilities. Nationally, fewer and fewer students with disabilities are being taught in separate special education classrooms. Gable said the typical elementary school teacher in Virginia today has three to four students with disabilities. Nationally, fewer and fewer students with disabilities are being taught in separate special education classrooms. Gable said the typical elementary school teacher in Virginia today has three to four students with disabilities. Nationally, fewer and fewer students with disabilities are being taught in separate special education classrooms.

But T-TAC has a mandate to offer training and technical support to any teacher of students with disabilities, almost all teachers now are eligible for the help. And many of the general education teachers are taking advantage of what T-TAC offers, according to ODU T-TAC Director Kerry Lambert, whose affiliation with the center dates to 1980.

“It is particularly satisfying to recognize now that our training and support services ultimately benefit all students,” said Lambert, who became the center’s director in 1995 just after she received her Ph.D. at ODU in urban educational leadership. Previously she had served as a T-TAC staff member and coordinator. Tonelson and Lambert noted, too, that discipline and learning-environment problems are significant among students with special needs and fewer students with disabilities are being taught in separate special education classrooms.

Two centers were added elsewhere in the state in the early days, a special education teacher of students with disabilities, almost all teachers now are eligible for the help. And many of the general education teachers are taking advantage of what T-TAC offers, according to ODU T-TAC Director Kerry Lambert, whose affiliation with the center dates to 1980.

“The growing diversity of the student population is a challenge,” he added. By that he means ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as the sort of diversity that occurs when a general education classroom includes children with disabilities and those whose home environments have not prepared them academically or behaviorally for school.

With classrooms today not nearly so homogeneous as they once were, teachers must have a much broader array of skills in order to maintain an effective learning environment. Lambert said this environment depends a lot on clear expectations and forms of student recognition, and that these skills is what ESD is striving to provide to schools.

“The ODU-T-TAC director noted that a unique aspect of working with the program is the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of educational change and to support school personnel as they institute evidence-based practices for the benefit of students.

Lambert was given an award last year by the Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education for extraordinary support she extends to Virginia educators. A primary reason for the significant funding for the ODU T-TAC, even in tight budget times, is the Effective Schoolwide Discipline (ESD) program that Gable directs for the entire state. Federal initiatives such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are the source of flow-through monies that the VDOE grants to T-TACs, and Gable’s program has been a beneficiary of a U.S. Department of Education thrust called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

More than 100 schools in Virginia are participating in ESD; across the nation, the figure now stands at more than 5,000 schools that are involved in some way with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

With classrooms today not nearly so homogeneous as they once were, teachers must have a much broader array of skills in order to maintain an effective learning environment. Lambert said this environment depends a lot on clear expectations and forms of student recognition, and that these skills is what ESD is striving to provide to schools.

“The growing diversity of the student population is a challenge,” he added. By that he means ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as the sort of diversity that occurs when a general education classroom includes children with disabilities and those whose home environments have not prepared them academically or behaviorally for school.

With classrooms today not nearly so homogeneous as they once were, teachers must have a much broader array of skills in order to maintain an effective learning environment. Lambert said this environment depends a lot on clear expectations and forms of student recognition, and that these skills is what ESD is striving to provide to schools.

“The growing diversity of the student population is a challenge,” he added. By that he means ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as the sort of diversity that occurs when a general education classroom includes children with disabilities and those whose home environments have not prepared them academically or behaviorally for school.

With classrooms today not nearly so homogeneous as they once were, teachers must have a much broader array of skills in order to maintain an effective learning environment. Lambert said this environment depends a lot on clear expectations and forms of student recognition, and that these skills is what ESD is striving to provide to schools.

“The growing diversity of the student population is a challenge,” he added. By that he means ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as the sort of diversity that occurs when a general education classroom includes children with disabilities and those whose home environments have not prepared them academically or behaviorally for school.
Maglev researchers record milestone

It was a short trip, but a major milestone on a long journey. The Old Dominion team behind the magnetic levitation (maglev) research project tested a 12-foot-long train base car on 50 feet of elevated track on the south side of campus Feb. 17.

The demonstration, for school officials and local media, indicated some of the problems that have arisen with slower-speed maglev transportation have been solved.

“This is a significant milestone. We have always said that we wanted to show that we could levitate it and propel it, and we have done it,” said Jerry Creedon, ODU’s director of transportation research. ODU is working to develop an energy-efficient maglev train that would operate at slower speeds in an urban setting. The only commercial maglev in the world is a high-speed train built in China for several billion dollars.

During the test, the 12-foot-long car, called a bogie, moved smoothly north and south at several miles per hour. Its trip length was limited because it required a cable to run to the device controlling its movement. But this track test has been a long time coming. Levitation has been accomplished in the lab for three years now.

Thomas Albers, an aerospace engineering professor, heads the research team in magnetic levitation at the university. He said his team has been testing the separate magnetic system for propulsion, known as a linear induction motor, in the lab for a number of months. “We put the bogie on the guideway in December and began the first on-guideway testing of that vehicle,” Albers said.

“That was when the first unrestrained propulsion tests occurred. The rainy, cold weather in December prompted us to curtail the tests until after the holiday break.”

The initial plan called for a wireless demonstration, but the engineers found that a problem with electric “noise” or static needs to be worked out first.

“By summer we should have it back on the track for more tests,” Albers said.

Otay Bayalai, dean of the Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology, was among the university officials who attended the test. He hopes it’s a sign of big things to come for the maglev team at ODU.

Next year could be a busy one for maglev testing on the campus. The MagneMotion maglev vehicle – a $7.6 million magnetic levitation project by a Massachusetts firm – is due to be tested on the ODU track beginning in about a year, Creedon said.

The plan is to use the station near Webb Center as the staging/power point for tests that will reserve the eastern half of the track (back toward Hampton Boulevard) for MagneMotion testing and the western half for ODU’s maglev bogie testing.

——

New books by ODU authors

Rod Evans, lecturer of philosophy


Focusing on the subtle distinctions and often overlooked differences between or among imperfectly understood words, Evans’ book answers vocabulary questions you never knew you had. From technical definitions (herb and spice) to cultural literacy (inductive and deductive reasoning) to subtleties in connotation (nerd and geek), each entry in this comprehensive guide distinguishes between two or more words that are commonly confused.

Ken Jennings, author of “Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs” and holder of the longest winning streak on “Jeopardy!” writes, “I paged through it with zest and zeal – which, if I may spoil the ending, turn out to be not quite the same thing.”

Wayne Talley, eminent scholar and Frederick W. Beazley professor of economics


Talley, executive director of the ODU Maritime Institute, edited the book and co-authored three chapters: “U.S. Ship Accident Research,” “ Piracy in Shipping” and “U.S. Port Security.” The book is described as an indispensable guide to those concerned with safety at sea – shippers, insurers, legal practitioners and others in the maritime industry. It examines the issues from both the ships’ and ports’ perspectives. Sara Russell, instructor of maritime and supply chain management and a 2004 graduate of the M.B.A. program, wrote the chapter on “Port Safety and Workers.”

Sonia Yaco, special collections librarian and university archivist

"Hampton Roads: Remembering Our Schools," The History Press

Yaco is one of four authors of this history of public education in the region before the official start of the Jim Crow system. Lead co-authors are Cassandra Newby-Alexander, associate professor of history at Norfolk State; Jeffrey Littlejohn, assistant professor of history at Sam Houston State; and Charles Ford, chair of history at NSU.

Released on the 50th anniversary of school desegregation in Hampton Roads, the book highlights the growth and development of the public school system. It also finially examines the fight for equalization and public support for schools that began in the late 19th century and continued well to the 21st century.

Celebrate Women's History Month by supporting this year's theme, Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet. Donate your gently used items to the Glamour of Going Green clothing drive. Items collected will benefit the YWCA Women in Crisis Program and the Hampton Roads chapter of Dress for Success. Donations may be dropped off at the Women's Center, room 1000 in Webb Center, during the month of March.

For several reasons, ODU is perfect fit for young teen

By Brendan O'Hallarn

He's tall for his age. And he speaks like an adult. If you glance quickly and think he's just like the other kids in his math or English class, that's just the way Lane likes it. He wants to blend in. But take a good look. His boyish face is a giveaway.

One professor last semester would scan his classroom early in each lecture, invariably stopping at Lane, and doing a double take.

“You see, Spencer Lane is 14. And he’s a freshman at Old Dominion, studying to be a mechanical engineer.”

“Which I didn’t know when I first came into a class, it took a moment to sink in: I’m actually doing this,” he said. “But it’s going well so far.”

Lane’s family decided to forgo high school, moving him from eighth grade to Old Dominion at the start of the fall 2008 semester. His SAT score of 1170 (taken at age 12) suggested L he could handle the class work. His 3.8 GPA is proof of it. But his obvious smarts aren’t even the reason he’s here.

A year ago, Lane was diagnosed with Crohn’s disease, a chronic inflammatory disease of the gastrointestinal tract. The disease meant the healthy, active 13-year-old faced a nightmare year of feeding tubes, pills, hospital visits and bed rest. The health hardship continues. He takes 30 pills daily to try to keep the symptoms at bay, but still vomits a couple of times every day.

“It’s annoying, but you have to take what you’re given and make the best that you can,” he says. “If I wasn’t diagnosed with Crohn’s disease, I might have headed off to high school instead of coming here.”

The family decided that Lane could better handle the rigors of university classes than he could the long hours of sitting every day in a high school classroom. His ODU classes are concentrated on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so he can fit in his many medical treatments the rest of the week. He also spends a lot of time recuperating in his Virginia Beach home.

Mom Michele knew that her son could handle the academics. “He was a very early talker. And one day (when he was 3) he just picked up a book and started reading,” she recalls.

“He reasoning was also very advanced at a very young age. He’d say, ‘I understand why you’re saying that, but could we do things this way instead?’ This was as a 2½- or 3-year-old!” Lane says it was difficult for him in earlier grades because his classmates weren’t as interested in learning as he was. Of course, they were also 6 or 8 or 10 years old, and simply wanted to play.

Now for the first time, he’s in class with some students who know a little more than he does.

“I actually kind of like that. I like being in an environment where people want to learn,” he said.

Julie Manthey, a lecturer in the English department, taught Lane English 110. She says she watched him flourish in her class.

“He came in a bit shy, but before I knew it he was working as a peer reviewer for his much older classmates during writing workshops,” Manthey notes. “He never was afraid to contribute to classroom discussions or ask questions – he simply fit in with everyone else.”

Manthey continues to be dazzled by Lane. She’s teaching him Introduction to Technical and Scientific Writing this semester.

“Spencer is an inspiration. I know there were many days when he didn’t feel well, but he still came to class. His commitment to excelling in college motivates all who meet him to try that much harder – especially me.”

Julie Manthey

Lecturer of English

——

Spencer is an inspiration. I know there were many days when he didn’t feel well, but he still came to class. His commitment to excelling in college motivates all who meet him to try that much harder – especially me.”

Julie Manthey

Lecturer of English

——

New books by ODU authors

Rod Evans, lecturer of philosophy


Focusing on the subtle distinctions and often overlooked differences between or among imperfectly understood words, Evans’ book answers vocabulary questions you never knew you had. From technical definitions (herb and spice) to cultural literacy (inductive and deductive reasoning) to subtleties in connotation (nerd and geek), each entry in this comprehensive guide distinguishes between two or more words that are commonly confused.

Ken Jennings, author of “Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs” and holder of the longest winning streak on “Jeopardy!” writes, “I paged through it with zest and zeal – which, if I may spoil the ending, turn out to be not quite the same thing.”

Wayne Talley, eminent scholar and Frederick W. Beazley professor of economics

“Maritime Safety, Security and Piracy,” International Maritime Organization

Talley, executive director of the ODU Maritime Institute, edited the book and co-authored three chapters: “U.S. Ship Accident Research,” “Piracy in Shipping” and “U.S. Port Security.” The book is described as an indispensable guide to those concerned with safety at sea – shippers, insurers, legal practitioners and others in the maritime industry. It examines the issues from both the ships’ and ports’ perspectives. Sara Russell, instructor of maritime and supply chain management and a 2004 graduate of the M.B.A. program, wrote the chapter on “Port Safety and Workers.”

Sonia Yaco, special collections librarian and university archivist

“Hampton Roads: Remembering Our Schools,” The History Press

Yaco is one of four authors of this history of public education in the region before the official start of the Jim Crow system. Lead co-authors are Cassandra Newby-Alexander, associate professor of history at Norfolk State; Jeffrey Littlejohn, assistant professor of history at Sam Houston State; and Charles Ford, chair of history at NSU.

Released on the 50th anniversary of school desegregation in Hampton Roads, the book highlights the growth and development of the public school system. It also finially examines the fight for equalization and public support for schools that began in the late 19th century and continued well to the 21st century.

Celebrate Women’s History Month by supporting this year’s theme, Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet. Donate your gently used items to the Glamour of Going Green clothing drive. Items collected will benefit the YWCA Women in Crisis Program and the Hampton Roads chapter of Dress for Success. Donations may be dropped off at the Women’s Center, room 1000 in Webb Center, during the month of March.
Laroussi finds plasma plume is composed of tiny pellets

BY JIM RAPER

Electrical engineer Mourir Laroussi has garnered media attention internation-
ally for his so-called plasma pencil that has been likened to a Star Wars light
saber. But in his latest research paper, he admits that he now
knows that his invention
does not shoot out a saber-like jet of cold plasma, but
rather operates like a rapid-fire machine
gun spitting out cold plasma pellets.

To the naked eye, the plasma appears
to come out of the hand-held plasma
cabinet in a continuous flow up to 2.5
inches long. But a

LAROUSSI

camera with an exposure time of a few
nanoseconds reveals that the jet was actu-
ally composed of tiny, donut-shaped pellets
that are fired out of the pencil and then dis-
sipate in the ambient air after traveling an
inch or two. Laroussi said by knowing more
about the makeup of the plumes, he and his
colleagues will be able to better control them.

Biological research began earlier at Old
Dominion, and which is continuing, investi-
gates uses of the cold plasma to kill harmful
bacteria in the mouth, disinfect wounds and
speed healing.

An article authored by Laroussi and his
students, published earlier this year in
Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics, lays
out recent discoveries at ODU's Laser and
Plasma Engineering Institute (LPEI) about
fundamental aspects of cold plasma plumes.
Laroussi is the director of the institute.

On Feb. 27, PhysOrg.com published a
report on the research with the headline
"Scientists Control Plasma Bullets." Said
Laroussi, "The article we published is stir-
ing up quite a bit of interest."

He told PhysOrg.com that his recent
research seeks to understand the physics
behind the formation and propagation of the
cold plasma bullets. “There has been a
lot of debate as to how these bullets propa-
gate. So we hope that we have contributed
some interesting ideas to this debate."

Based on the donut shape of the plasma
pellets, the researchers believe that they are
surface waves that travel along the interface
between the helium pumped by the pencil
and ambient air. In addition, the researchers
found that they could control the initiation
time and distance of the plasma pellets by
applying an external DC field.

ONFilm Festival highlights

Thursday, March 26
"From Africa to America: 2 Visions of
Identity in the 21st Century" (film screenings
and panel discussions)
• 5:30 p.m. – MCB Auditorium
"MERE-bi" ("The Mother of All"), directed by Ousmane W. Mbaye
This film captures a generation of the leaders
of the women's movement in Senegal, focusing
on pioneer activist and nonconformist
Annette Mbaye D’Erneville, the country's first
woman journalist. Free.
• 7:30-9:30 p.m. – MCB Auditorium
"Revolution '67," directed by Marylou
Tibaldo-Bongiorno
"Revolution '67" takes us back to the sum-
er of 1967 to Newark, N.J., and tells the
untold story of what really happened during
the Newark riots from the mouths of the peo-
ple who lived it. Free.

Friday, March 27
ODU Student Filmmaking Presentations and Awards
• 3:30 p.m. – University Theatre
Third annual presentation of the Stephen E.
Konikoff Student Filmmaker Awards. Win-
ning films will be screened and cash prizes
totaling $1,500 will be awarded. Free.

Saturday, March 28
ONFilmFest Award Winners Marathon
• 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Naro Cinema
See the winning films that were selected from
among the more than 30 independent films
that were screened during the festival (stu-
dents $5 / general public $10).

ONFilm Hampton Roads Film Office and
Virginia Production Alliance 3rd Annual
Career Day Expo
• 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – BAL
Hear representatives from production compa-
ies and media-related businesses in
Hampton Roads discuss opportunities in the
film, television, video production and other
media-related industries. Free.

Filmmaking in Hampton Roads Panels, mod-
ERated by W. Jeffery Frizzell, commissioner of
the Hampton Roads Film Office
• 1:30-3:00 p.m. – BAL
An all-female panel will cover film and video
production in Hampton Roads from a
woman’s perspective. Free.

ONFilm Fest Awards Gala
• 7:40 p.m. – Granby Theater
Celebrate with filmmakers and industry
celebs as they accept their awards at the festi-
val wrap party. Dance to the music of the
Rhythm Kings. Cash bar; dress: film festival
chic ($10 students / $20 general public).
For tickets, call 683-5305.

Most people are familiar with the plasma
that is used to light up fluorescent bulbs and
television screens, but this supercharged gas
is contained in a vacuum and would be too
hot and difficult to manage in the regular
atmosphere. Laroussi has been a pioneer in
the generation and bioapplication of cold
plasma that is cool enough to pass a finger
through even though it packs enough wallop
to kill bacteria.

The lead author of the article in Journal of
Physics D: Applied Physics is Nicolas
Mariam-Pearson, who is also a research
at LPEI. Other authors are Asma Begum
and Erdinc Karakas, who are ODU doctoral stu-
dents working with Laroussi.

NATO office opens in Research Park

Maj. Gen. Kjell-Ove Skare, center, and President Broderick, second from right, lead the ribbon
cutting to mark the opening of the Civil-Military Fusion Center and Civil-Military Overview.

Making their move

Jazz Walters, left, speeds downcourt, followed by fellow senior Tiffany Green, in the Lady
Monarchs' last regular-season home game. The ODU women open play in the CAA tourna-
ment, hosted by JMU, at 2:30 p.m. March 13. Senior Jonathan Adams, right, drives to the
basket in the men's final regular-season home game. After a third-round loss to VCU in
their CAA tourney, the Monarchs are awaiting word on a postseason tournament invitation.

Football season ticket applications due May 1

The deadline to place orders for priority
season tickets for the inaugural Old
Dominion football season is May 1. Seats
will be allocated using the Big Blue Club pri-
ority points system. Seat selection will take
place in June.

Full payment of season tickets and 50
percent payment of the 2009 Big Blue Club
pledge are due May 1 (balance due Aug. 15).
Tickets are $100 for ODU faculty and
staff for the seven home games ($120 for the
general public). Family Plan tickets are $290
and include two adult and two youth tickets
(children must be 17 or younger by Sept. 5,
2009). A limited number of family packages
are available; they also will be allocated
using the priority points system.

For tickets call 683-4444. For more
information about the process, call the Big
Blue Club at 683-6963.
Thursday, March 19

Sunday, March 22
Baseliev vs. May, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7
Baseliev vs. Norfolk Tides, Harbor Park, Norfolk, 7:15 p.m.
A tribute to Meyeria

Meyeria Oberndorf (center), former mayor of Virginia Beach, is greeted by well-wishers following a tribute to her on March 5 at the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center. Ross Magller, rec- ordist of the Board of Visitors, read a resolution during the program naming the VBHEC’s Information and Learning Center the Meyeria Oberndorf Learning Commons.

Photo by STEVE DANIEL