Research Day 2004

Poster presentations on everything from the origins of life and facial-recognition technologies to exercise and diabetes and recent findings about the rust on the USS Monitor were on exhibit March 23 for Old Dominion University's first Research Day.

The daylong event, held at the Ted Constant Convocation Center, also featured demonstrations of groundbreaking work, such as the use of tiny electrical pulses to impact cells and organisms, and modeling, simulation and visualization techniques for applications ranging from flight to crowd behavior. Among the approximately 150 poster presentations and displays were several interactive exhibits.

More than 100 faculty and students took part in Research Day to explain their projects and answer questions.

"Because of the substantial growth ODU has experienced and the resulting increase in the number of faculty doing a variety of research, this was a great opportunity for both the campus community and the general public to explore some exciting and new work," said Robert Ash, associate vice president for research and economic development. "For our faculty, in particular, it was an opportunity to discover what their colleagues are doing in other colleges and to explore things they can do together."

Leroy Hood, president of the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle, gave the Research Day keynote address, "Systems Biology: Deciphering Life and Changing Medicine."

Hood is internationally known for his groundbreaking contributions to molecular biotechnology and genomics. His professional career has included instrumental contributions to the development of the DNA gene sequence and synthesizer, and the protein synthesizer and sequencer.

Currently the William Gates III Professor at the University of Washington, he played a role in founding biotechnology companies such as Amgen, Applied Biosystems, Systemix, Rosetta and MacroGenics.

At Washington, Hood formed a cross-disciplinary Department of Molecular Biotechnology in 1992. In 2000, he co-founded the Institute for Systems Biology, a research enterprise dedicated to systems approaches to biology and medicine. The institute merges the disciplines of biology, medicine, mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry and engineering to understand and solve specific problems in the life sciences.