1. All doctoral students, who have passed comprehensive exams, are required to be registered for at least one graduate credit hour (fall, spring, and summer) until the degree is completed. This includes the semester in which they graduate. Failure to comply with the requirement will result in charges to the student's account for one graduate credit hour plus required fees for each semester. Students are not eligible for graduation until all charges are paid.

2. All graduate students must complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) seven core RCR training modules. The training takes anywhere between 3 1/2 to 4 hours. The modules do not have to be completed all at once. They can be saved and resumed at the student’s convenience. Completion of the RCR modules will be tracked through the CITI website and must be completed within twelve months after first enrolling.

MediaCommons is a community based network for scholars, students, and practitioners in media studies. The web page promotes exploration of new forms of publishing within the humanities, as well as access to a wide range of community-driven intellectual writing and media production. The idea for the project emerged in 2006 as a series of conversations about the future of digital publishing between Dr. Avi Santo (Department of Communication and Theatre Arts, Old Dominion University) and Dr. Kathleen Fitzpatrick (Department of Media Studies, Pomona College), co-creators of MediaCommons.

Currently, Old Dominion University hosts the project’s front page. The front page serves largely as a gateway to the different sub-projects. “We decided to use the front page to ask the meta-questions related to the Digital Humanities. Similar to any press, the front page asks the big questions, the broad philosophical subjects. The internal projects work through these issues on a more in-depth level,” said Santo. In effort to support the project, the departments of Humanities, English and Communication at ODU, collaboratively created a front page editor position for a graduate student in the field. Jamie Henthorn, PhD in English Cultural Studies and New Media, is currently holding this position. According to Henthorn, being the front page editor of MediaCommons had provided her with the opportunity to converse with professors and scholars in her field nationwide, as a professional rather than just a student. Through her work, she has also gained valuable experience in organization work related to digital publishing.

The project is currently recruiting graduate students who wish to engage with the creation and development of the content on the web page. “We are looking for people who want to be a part of sharing the information, posting comments and be actively involved with the topics of discussion,” said Henthorn. Students will be involved in the administrative and organizational work as well. According to Santo, working with MediaCommons will give graduate students an opportunity to collaborate between the different departments in their shared interest and questions of digital media. More than that, MediaCommons hopes to encourage graduate students to reach out and start discourse with professors and scholars nationwide, who’s work they have studied throughout their graduate career. Sant and Henthorn believe that working with MediaCommons will help students be at the cutting edge of conversations in the humanities, as well as develop fresh new ideas for their personal projects that are timely. Graduate students can also include their experiences in the project to enrich their resumes and CV’s. Even though the project is supported by programs at the College of Arts and Letters, all other majors are encouraged to participate. The project is fundamentally an interdisciplinary effort.

Every month, the large topics of discussion change. This semester’s discussions are: February-Digital Copyright, Litigation, and Open Source; March-Digital Divide; April- The Intersections of Digital Humanities and Media Studies; May- Teaching Tools. MediaCommons has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, The MacArthur Foundation as well as Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The project appeared in publications such as: The New York Times, Washington Post, and the Chronicle of Higher Education. This summer, ODU has also funded a workshop affiliated with MediaCommons, in regards to supervising born-digital theses and dissertations.

All MediaCommons meetings occur during activity hour at Media Park BAL 2027. The dates for this semester’s meetings are: February 5, February 19, March 5, March 19, April 2, and April 16. For more information, please contact Jamie Henthorn at: jhent004@odu.edu or visit http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/
Preparing Future Faculty

In Spring 2013 two PFF events will be held on Friday, February 8, and Friday, March 22. The first event, “Framework for Grant Writing: Advice for Graduate Students and Junior Faculty” will be on February 8 in the Hampton-Newport News Rooms in Webb Center. The second event, “Publish, Don’t Perish: The Use of ePublishing in Academia” will be on Friday, March 22, in the Virginia Beach Room in Webb Center. These events are held from noon until 2:00 p.m..

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

Each year, the University selects two outstanding graduate teaching assistants—one for laboratory instruction and one for classroom instruction. They are selected in March, and, in addition to the $1,000 award, they are recognized at the spring faculty recognition dinner in April. All of the college nominees receive recognition certificates. Nominations are due in the Associate Dean’s Office of Graduate Studies. You can contact Iva at istoynev@odu.edu

Graduate News is online at odu.edu/ao/gradstudies

ODU graduate student Iva Stoyneva completed and edited this newsletter with help from Dr. Brenda Neumon Lewis and the staff of the Office of Graduate Studies. You can contact Iva at istoynev@odu.edu