Each year in the spring semester, Monarch graduate students come together to share their research. This year, the Graduate School and the Graduate Student Organization are co-sponsoring the sixth annual Graduate Research Achievement Day (G.R.A.D.) on Thursday, March 23, 2017. This is an opportunity for students to present their research via oral or poster presentations.

Oral presentations, which will be conducted in the River Rooms of the Webb University Center, will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Students interested in giving an oral presentation should prepare a five minute presentation with a maximum of five PowerPoint slides (or the equivalent in their preferred presentation software). The presentations should be geared toward a general audience as many of the people watching may not be familiar with the topic. Presentations should include the key aspects of their research, how it was conducted, what discoveries were made, what questions were answered, what questions still need to be investigated, and why it is important to the field and the community as a whole.

Poster presentations, which will be conducted in the North Mall of the Webb University Center, will be held from noon to 2:00 p.m. Posters should be no larger than 4’ x 6’ in size and the most salient aspects of research should be presented. The posters should have minimal use of sentences and focus on colors and photos to make them more attractive. Students should not use PowerPoint slides on their posters. For assistance in creating posters, we recommend Colley Avenue Copies. Funding for posters may be available through the appropriate dean’s office.

Students who would like to participate are encouraged to submit a proposal via the link below. The abstract for the proposal should be no more than 250 words. All proposals are due Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Students will be notified of their approval by Wednesday, February 22, 2017. Students will need to submit their completed presentations no later than Thursday, March 16, 2017. To submit a proposal, go to http://bit.ly/GRADDay. If you have any questions, contact Eric White at emwhite@odu.edu.
Anthony “A.J.” Orlikoff’s earliest memories are of his father’s stories at bedtime. Instead of the traditional fables and fairytales, his father shared riveting accounts of World War II. Over the years, A.J.’s knowledge of the past grew into his appetite for history. He feels he is very lucky to have been exposed to history the way he was at such a young age. Now, over a decade later, A.J.’s love for history is turning into a career, and he could not be more excited.

A.J. has dedicated his life to understanding history and interpreting it for others. As a “true Monarch” alum, A.J. received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Old Dominion University. At both levels he studied history, specializing in modern American history from the Civil War to the present day. In his graduate career, he had the opportunity to teach several courses for the History department as well as help create the History Tutorial Program. These experiences were invaluable to him as he had the opportunity to share his love of history with inquiring minds.

During his time at ODU, he also interned at Richmond National Battlefield Park. Primarily, he was a program creator and an interpreter. He was tasked with creating thematic tours and talks that would engage visitors and allow them to connect on a level they might not be able to on their own. Knowledge of history also allows us to better make decisions for the future. To A.J., helping people understand this and the history it supports is something he could spend countless hours working toward. In his Battlefield position, he was able to work with a group of people who shared his passion for history.

Of the many things A.J. takes away from his all-too-brief time at ODU, he reflects most fondly on the people he met here. He strongly encourages the rest of the graduate student population to:

“Make a conscious effort to make friends and cultivate those relationships. Not enough people do that. These are very formative times in your life. Be sure to have fun with your peers. Work hard yes, but this is also a human experience.”

As he goes forward, he will continue to pursue a career with the National Park Service.

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Graduate Student Organization

Everybody knows graduate school is very difficult but the good news is thousands of students at Old Dominion University are going through very similar experiences. Whether struggling and studying or succeeding and celebrating, the graduate school experience is always better with peers. The Graduate Student Organization is built for students like yourself to be united with other like-minded students. We hold social events at local venues around Norfolk and informative events to help craft that perfect CV or grant proposal. A full list of GSO events can be found in the “Dates and Deadlines” panel on the first page. For more information, e-mail public relations chair, Eric White, at emwhite@odu.edu.
Dr. Stephanie Adams has a passion for students that has made waves in the Frank Batten College of Engineering since she rejoined the Monarch nation 6 months ago.

At the start of her career in academia, she worked at the University of Nebraska helping underrepresented students become successful in engineering. Dr. Adams sought an administrative role to better assist and prepare students. It soon became clear to her that she would need more education to be more effective in her mission. She went back to school with a new goal in mind, to become a president. Her Ph.D. program was a custom one that consisted of 45% engineering, 45% management, and 10% educational research. Each of these components would play an important role as she continued in pursuit of a higher position. She went on to serve as a faculty member at Nebraska. Afterwards, she served as an Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University from 2008, and a department head at Virginia Tech from 2010. She started at ODU in the summer of 2016.

Fun Fact: Dean Adams attended ODU’s Child Care center for kindergarten.

Now having returned to her kindergarten alma mater, she aims to take the College of Engineering to new heights. Though it will take some time, there are already plans being put into action at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. At the undergraduate level, the focus is offering a better suite of services such as peer mentoring or tutoring. At the graduate level, the focus is real-world preparation. At the master’s level, ODU will be better connected with the community and better teach students how to translate their skills honed in the classroom for working world applications. At the Ph.D. level, there will be more emphasis on preparing students for the professoriate in the form of help writing CV’s and proposals catered to the engineering community.

For students looking to move into academia as a career, Dr. Adams says to start preparing for the transition now. “Understand the scholarship demands of the field and work to improve whatever they may be.” Whether an artist, or a mathematician, or a philosopher, every discipline will require some sort of validation. Times have changed and the status quo is increasing every year. Start now because having a solid body of work is paramount in starting a career in academia.

ODU’s Division of Student Engagement & Enrollment Services has a fund to support graduate students traveling for conferences! Students planning to travel to a conference by June 30, 2017 must apply for funds at least 30 days before their travel date. The award covers up to $500 total in registration, hotel, and travel expenses.

To apply, or for more information, visit https://www.odu.edu/studentinvolvement/travel.

Old Dominion University has a number of ways graduate students can obtain funding for research. The primary method for obtaining funding is GrantForward.com. This website provides the campus community access to funding opportunities every day through a very intuitive interface. It features funding opportunities from a variety of sources from academic societies and foundations to federal and state agencies. Users can create a profile to which they would upload their CVs and manage their own personal profiles. For more information, visit http://www.odu.edu/research. For more opportunities, visit http://www.grantforward.com.
ODU graduate student Eric White compiled and edited this newsletter with help from Dr. Robert Wojtowicz, Dr. Bryan Porter, and Ms. Missy Barber in the Graduate School. You can contact Eric at: emwhite@odu.edu.