

A PROFILE IN GIVING

ODU clinical care draws funding from foundation

By Irvin B. Harrell

When it comes to counting blessings, Judge Richard S. Bray humbly reels off a long list of people who have enhanced his life and inspired him to do the same for others.

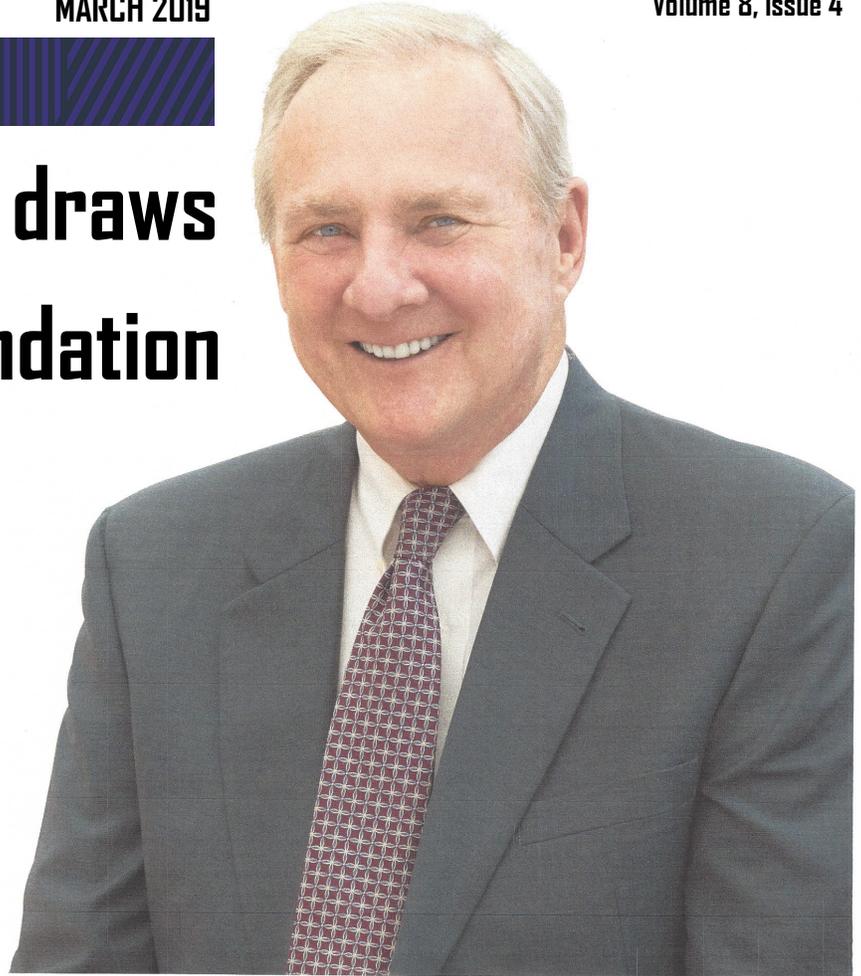
“I was mentored through every stage of my life,” he says. “I had people lifting me up, people who led me by their example to make the right decisions.”

From law clerk to attorney to judge to trustee, Bray has gone from wielding the gavel to awarding grant money, now serving as the CEO and president of The Beazley Foundation, which funds such concerns as healthcare, housing, and education. Over the past three years, the foundation has given the College of Health Sciences \$200,000 toward improvements to its Dental Hygiene Care Facility. That money has gone to new dental equipment, which has elevated the level of education at the School of Dental Hygiene.

Bray’s initial connection with college was with former Dean Shelley C. Mishoe, now a professor with the School of Community & Environmental Health.

“We connected immediately as we met several times over lunch or a coffee,” she said. “I believe we share a passion for empowering lives through education with a strong foundation on the basics: reading, writing, math

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Judge Richard S. Bray, CEO and President of The Beazley Foundation.

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and history. I was deeply honored when the foundation purchased new dental chairs and equipment over a multi-year gift.”

Bray knows the value of providing opportunities to students – and those opportunities are not always monetary.

He tells the story of a former Norfolk State University student who found himself in the judge’s courtroom on drug charges about three decades ago.

“He was a junior in college and I knew of his family – hard-working people. The young man’s father was a taxi driver who had been murdered,” Bray says. “Many of his family members showed up in court with him.”

The young man was found guilty, and as it was back in the day in Bray’s courtroom, if you were convicted on drug charges you had two choices: time in jail or time in prison.

However, this time, things would turn out a little differently.



Judge Richard S. Bray in his Portsmouth office.

“I’ll tell you what I’ll do,” he said to the young man. “I’ll let you finish the semester, your junior year, and then come back – and bring your toothbrush – and we’ll see what we’ll do.”

When spring semester came to a close the young man returned – this time with a couple of his professors.

“They spoke so well of what he had done and how he had performed,” Bray says. “So I put

him on probation.”

“And the next day the media skewered me,” he chuckled.

One of Bray’s greatest rewards, he says, came years later when he was on the Court of Appeals of Virginia. He received a letter from that same young man. He had graduated from Norfolk State. He went on to attend University of Maryland and received a degree in architecture. And he had become a successful

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architect.

“He wanted to express his appreciation to me for giving him a chance,” Bray says. “I’ll never forget that.”

It’s amazing what can happen when a young person is given a chance, Bray says. He speaks about today’s society and how it has vastly changed from the way it was when he was young. “Today these kids are really in a minefield with drugs and what-not,” he says. “There are traps grabbing at them.”

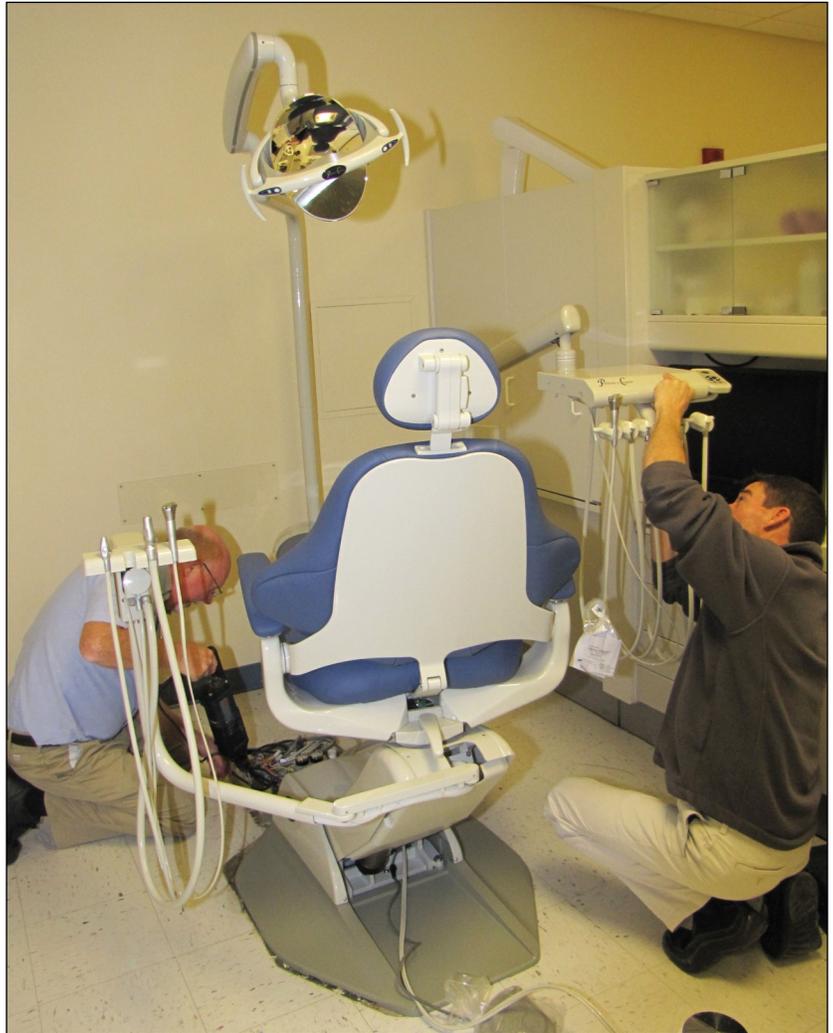
Defining his upbringing as “magical,” Bray won’t hesitate to regale you with stories on growing up in Portsmouth public schools in the ’50s and ’60s. His parents were close friends with influential people who in turn became his friends.

“I was immersed in mentors,” he says. “Judge Lawrence I’Anson, who later became a Virginia Supreme Court chief justice, was a dear friend to me when I was a little boy. We would sit on the back porch and talk during the summertime.”

I’Anson was also confidante to Fred W. Beazley, who set up the foundation in 1948, two years after Bray was born. Bray inevitably became law clerk for Chief Justice I’Anson and went on to practice law in Chesapeake until 1989 when he was elected circuit court judge in Portsmouth. In 1991, he became a judge on the Court of Appeals of Virginia.

While on the Court of Appeals, Bray was asked to lead the foundation, which he had been a member of for eight years. I’Anson had stood by Beazley on the foundation till his passing and carried the torch, and as I’Anson’s health began to fail, passed it on to his son. In 2002, it was Bray’s turn.

For Bray, the transition was a seamless one, he says, given the time he spent growing up and learning from both I’Anson and Beazley.



Workers install a new dental chair at the Dental Hygiene Care Facility in the College of Health Sciences. This chair and several others were made possible by donations from The Beazley Foundation.

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“I knew what the mission of the foundation was. I knew what Mr. Beazley intended it to be and what Judge I’Anson intended it to be, and what they created,” he says.

The foundation is fond of providing specific things that are usually capital needs, rather than salaries, Bray says. “We want to provide something that is going to be an asset that has durability in the future.”

Providing ODU’s dental hygiene clinic with new equipment was one such opportunity, he says.

“This program is making a profound impact. It’s the best of two worlds because you’re educating for tomorrow and you are serving the community,” he says. “It’s healthcare delivery on the front lines.”

Because of Bray’s extensive service to the community, in 2009 he was chosen Chesapeake’s First Citizen. He says it was the greatest honor ever bestowed on him. There were about 800 people in attendance, all of whom had touched his life in some positive way.

It was a culmination of what had started when he was young, and instilled him the will to help others along his life’s journey.

“When I got in the car to head home, I said to my wife Dawn, ‘Tonight will never be topped,’” he says.

Such honors aside, Bray says he is grateful for the impact he has been able to make – at ODU and other places. The real takeaway has been how working with The Beazley Foundation has changed him, he adds.

“This job has made me a much better person,” he says. “It has taught me that nobody is unimportant. The frustration is that we can’t do more.”



On the wall of his office, Judge Bray has a photo and newspaper clipping of him sitting with one of his mentors, Judge Lawrence I’Anson.

Researcher's mission: Connecting lab with community

By Irvin B. Harrell

When Dr. Anna Jeng left her home in the Penghu islands to attend college in the mainland of Taiwan, the first thing she noticed was “the dirty air and dirty water.” She asked one of her older brothers who was in medical school how such conditions would affect her health, and he suggested she take a class to learn more about it.

It was that curious moment that would take Jeng down a path to environmental health. Over the years in the field, she has honed her work through connecting with communities, building trust, and leveraging action with her research.

“I grew up with parents who were heavily involved in the community,” she said. “I’ve always wanted to bridge my research between the lab and the community.”

Jeng tells the story of two phone calls that led to two separate research outcomes: one impacting her homeland of Taiwan and the other affecting a Newport News community.

The first call was a courtesy call she made in 2005 to colleagues at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) When researchers connect, sometimes a casual call can quickly turn complex. Before long they began discussing a possible environmental epidemiological study to assess the impact of persistent organic compounds on male reproductive health. During the conversation, Jeng says she realized that she had the right pieces to do that type of research.

The following day Jeng began pulling everything together and making additional phone calls to get those with the right expertise on board to collaborate.

“After a week, I had concrete ideas to begin writing a proposal,” she said. “I got excited.”

Her research proposal, which was submitted in 2006 and funded in 2008 by NIOSH, examined coke oven workers in Taiwan who were exposed in varying degrees to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), which are often produced by engines, incinerators and fires and also produced in some food products. In 2010, the National Institute of Environmental Health provided additional funding to further the scope of this topic.

Jeng brought together a group of experts: physicians, chemists, epidemiologists, toxicologists, industrial hygienists, and biostatisticians from the US and Taiwan. Jeng also recruited students from Kaohsiung Medical University in Taiwan. It became an international collaboration.

In order to conduct the research, Jeng had to collect blood, urine and sperm samples from the workers – a feat complicated by cultural issues, she said. They were more willing to provide blood and urine samples, but unsure about giving semen for research. “You have to ask my wife” or “My girlfriend has a problem with this,” were among the resistant replies Jeng initially received. After an initial turnout of five workers, Jeng continued to lobby for participation and build a rapport with initial volunteers and gradually expand her sample. The experience taught her a big lesson in developing trust and being sensitive to the cultural difference, she says.



Dr. Anna Jeng

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Some of the findings of her research were that PAHs and their by-products could pass the blood-testis barrier to interact with germ cells during spermatogenesis, and while PAH concentrations had minimal effects on sperm quality, PAHs could affect the life cycle of the sperm genesis.

The second phone call was an invitation to attend University of William & Mary for a toxicology seminar. As Jeng took the highway west toward Richmond, she got snarled in a traffic jam.

“I spotted a huge pile of coal off the highway,” she said. “I came home and thought ‘something is going on over there,’ but I didn’t know how to start studying it.”

Jeng met a doctoral student during the seminar and learned over a follow-up dinner that the student had done a study of the southeast community of Newport News – the neighborhood near the pile of coal and a predominantly low-income African American community. Within two weeks she invited Jeng to a community meeting there, where residents voiced their concerns about air quality and health issues.

After that meeting, Jeng sensed a possibility to bridge her laboratory work and the community needs. Within another two weeks, the student connected her with a local community group to work with. Based on a mutual interest in addressing environmental justice and health disparities in the disadvantaged community, Jeng immediately began building relationships and trust with its members.

Jeng and the local community group in the Southeast Community received four grants from the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institutes of Health to address environmental and health issues, particularly air quality, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and obesity since 2010. Leveraging the availability of funding resources, they have built community academic partnerships and estab-



Dr. Anna Jeng, poses with Linwood DeBrew, the executive director of the Greater Southeast Development Corp. in Newport News, after receiving the John R. Broderick Diversity Champion Award in February 2015.

lished an environmental justice coalition composed of more than 18 non-profile organizations, health clinics, community groups, businesses, academic institutes, and governmental agencies. Jeng worked closely with local members on community outreach, engagement, education and data collection. Her research has helped increase public awareness of air pollution in the community and educate the community on hazards and health consequences they face via numerous workshops, symposiums and meetings. Also, Jeng empowered community members to utilize scientific data to lobby congressmen, the city mayor, and governors to address environmental and health disparities of the community.

In short, Jeng has and continues to make a difference in the southeast community.

Two phone calls, two different outcomes, two communities benefiting from public health research. Jeng says bridging her lab work and community work has been a life-changing experience.

“At the end of the day as a researcher, I understand why we do research: intellectual ambition to understand the unknown that grips our imaginations, and advance our knowledge to improve the environment and people’s life,” she said. “More importantly, I want to experience the beauty of translating scientific results into public health action that makes a difference in people’s life.”

Clinic offers free oral cancer screenings throughout April

In honor of Oral Cancer Awareness Month, the Dental Hygiene Care Facility will be offering free oral cancer screening during the month of April.

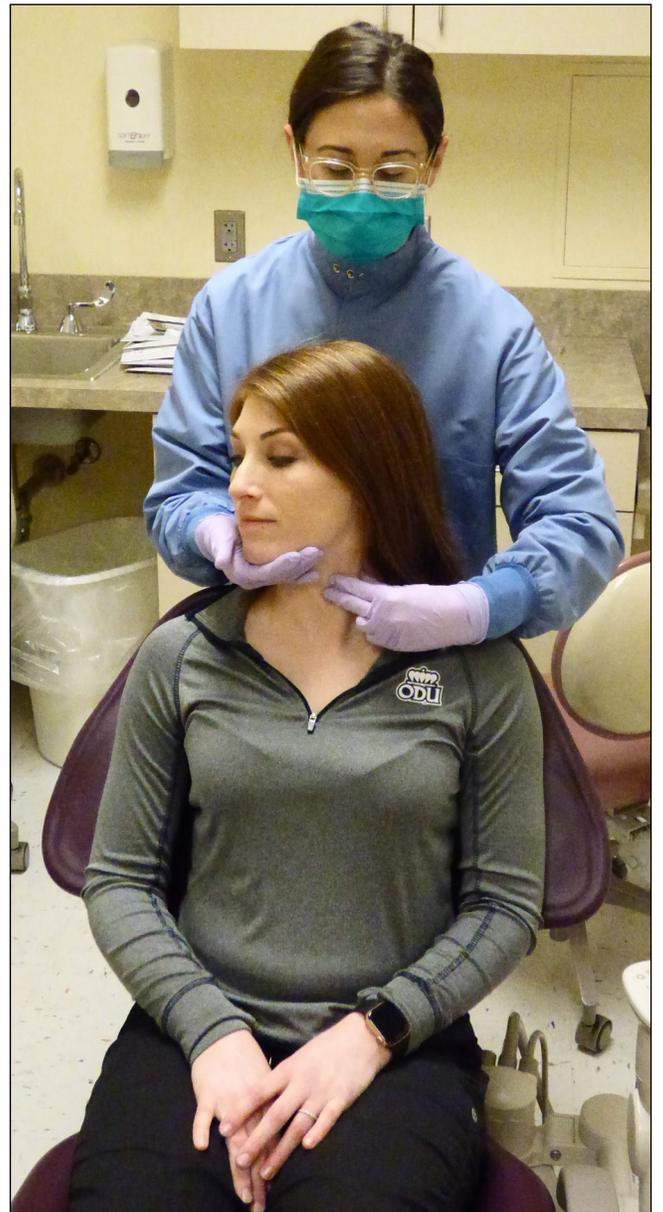
About 50,000 people will be diagnosed with oral cancer every year in the United States. It kills one person every hour of every day, and about 130 people will be diagnosed with it each day. Oral cancer occurs twice as often in blacks than whites and twice as often in men than women. The good news is that it can often be discovered early in its development through a simple, painless, and quick screening.

The fastest-growing segment of the oral cancer population are young, non-smoking individuals who contract the disease from human papillomavirus (HPV), which also causes cervical cancers. Since it is the most common sexually transferred infection in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said that between 50 percent and 80 percent of the nation will have HPV at some point in their lifetime.

With early detection, oral cancer survival rates are high and the side effects from treatment are at their lowest. Early indicators of oral cancer are red and/or white discolorations of the soft tissues of the mouth, a sore that does not heal within two weeks, or hoarseness that lasts for a prolonged period of time.

Oral and oropharyngeal cancers should be screened for annually starting around the age of 18. If an individual uses tobacco products, screening for them should begin at the age they commence tobacco use. Take advantage of this free offer and get screened at the Dental Hygiene Care Facility today located on the first floor of the College of Health Sciences building.

Call 757-683-4308 to make an appointment.





Guest speaker Chic Thompson delivers a message about the importance of the curious mind.

Speaker connects curiosity to health literacy

On March 19, the Center for Global Health hosted an interactive health literacy seminar titled “Thinking with a Curious Mind.”

The event was part of the National Education Association Big Read Event Series and was co-sponsored by the Hansen Family Foundation and the Center for Global Health.

During the seminar, guest speaker Chic Thompson took the audience on an engaging journey through the steps of curiosity that foster the mindset of innovation and social entrepreneurship to solve global public health issues.

Thompson is a Fellow of Entrepreneurship at the University of Virginia Darden Business School and

an adjunct faculty member at the Brookings Institution. He is also the executive director of WagiLabs, a global idea incubator for children’s ideas.

Thompson reminded the audience of the importance of always asking “why” to get to the next level of details of learning. He showcased videos of his work with WagiLabs in Ghana and Nigeria.

Joining Thompson in the presentation were his colleagues, Cassey Jenkins, superintendent of Youth Programs in Newport News, and Capt. Rob Coleman of the Newport News Sheriff’s Office. They highlighted the WagiLabs projects with the Boys and Girls Clubs in Newport News and the importance of these projects for children to express themselves creatively and collaboratively.

Students receive 10-week internships through NEPHIP

Two Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health (BSEH) students have been awarded a competitive internship under the National Environmental Public Health Internship Program (NEPHIP). This program is sponsored by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and includes a generous stipend.



Kaitlyn Greene



Brion Ockenfels

Our awardees are Kaitlyn Greene, who will intern in Fort Collins, Colo., and Brion Ockenfels, who will intern in Rochester, Minn.. Both are seniors in the BSEH program and received 10-week internships.

The purpose of this internship is to allow students to gain a firsthand perspective on the day-to-day responsibilities of environmental health professionals, make invaluable connections with those working in the field, and encourage students to consider careers working in local, state, or tribal environmental health departments following graduation. The selection process was extremely competitive. Only students from Environmental Health Accreditation Council-accredited universities, such as ODU, were eligible.

With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the program supports 19 undergraduate and six graduate environmental health student internships and provides a base stipend for undergraduates of \$4000 for a 10-week internship through NEHA to cover lodging, food, and incidental expenses.

College gets ready to launch three new degree programs

The college will offer three new degree programs between May and Fall 2019.

The Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) phases out the post-professional offering in the coming academic year. The MSTAT promotes clinical decision-making skills that will enhance the quality of healthcare throughout patients' lifetimes.

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health, which starts in the fall, will prepare students with knowledge and competencies necessary to use evidence-based approaches in public health practice. Students will be able to apply the concepts of population health, and the basic processes, approaches and interventions to identify and address the major health-related needs and concerns of populations.

ODU will independently offer a Master of Public Health (MPH) program in the fall of 2019. The program will be located in the College of Health Sciences' School of Community and Environmental Health and available online.

Online Doctor of Nursing programs get national recognition

Old Dominion University is ranked 15th nationally in the Top Online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Programs 2019 by NursingSchoolHub.com.

ODU is the only school from Virginia among the 25 universities that were recognized.

To rank the online programs, NursingSchoolHub.com looked for colleges and universities offering hybrid and low-residency Doctor of Nursing programs designed for working professionals. The programs were ranked according to three criteria:

- Cost (based on Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System score)
- Reputation (according to Niche.com score)
- Return in investment (using College Scorecard salary data)



"The DNP program at Old Dominion University has had tremendous success in preparing its graduates to be leaders and change agents in health care."

Carolyn Rutledge,

Only regionally accredited colleges and universities were considered; all ranked programs are also accredited by the Commission on College Nursing Education or Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

Old Dominion's online DNP programs are offered in two specializations: DNP Advanced Practice or Nurse Executive DNP. Those seeking to advance their career with a Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN) to DNP degree can choose either of these programs. The MSN to DNP program is designed to enhance leadership and practice skills of top-level nurses.

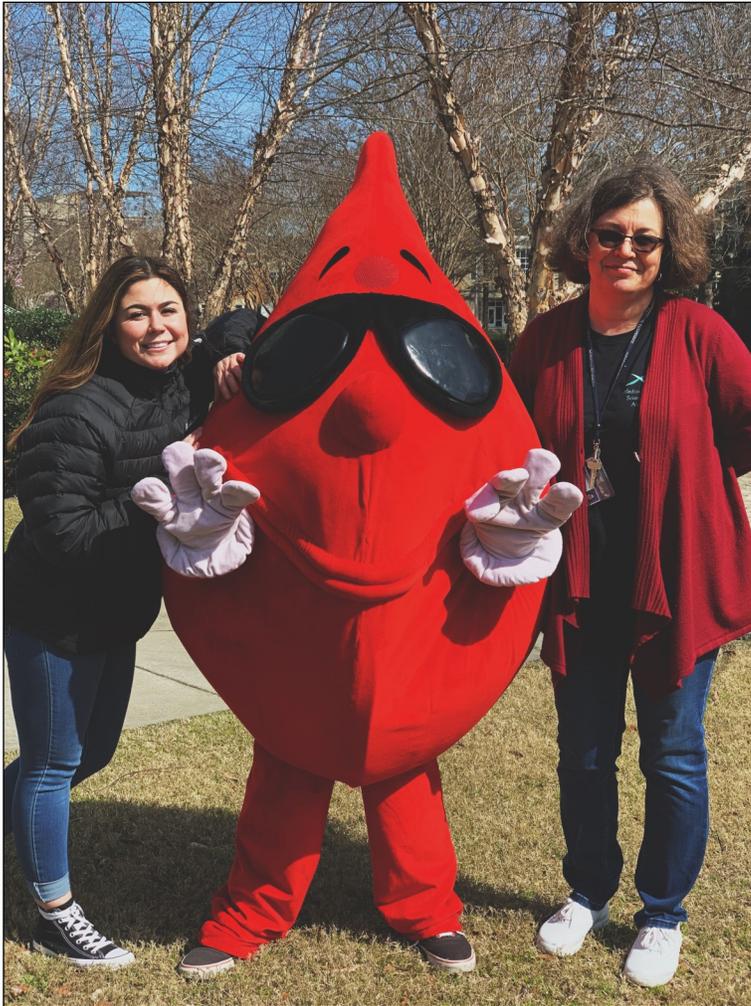
"The DNP program at Old Dominion University has had tremendous success in preparing its graduates to be leaders and change agents in health care," said Carolyn Rutledge, associate chair of nursing. "Graduates have gone on to serve as delegates in the Virginia General Assembly, receive Fulbright Scholarships, work for the American Nurses Association, serve on state and national

boards, lead hospital systems and run their own practices."

ODU guarantees that students pursuing an online Doctor of Nursing Practice degree will get all the resources and academic support available to campus students.

"ODU's online MSN to DNP program is designed for ultimate flexibility," according to NursingSchoolHub.com. "It's the most accommodating online DNP program out there, tailor-made for working, top-level nurses looking to further their studies and advance their practice."

FAYE E. COLEMAN MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE



The Medical Laboratory Science Student Association and the School of Medical Diagnostic and Translational Sciences would like to cordially thank all who came and supported the Faye E. Coleman Memorial Blood Drive. Whether you donated blood, attempted to donate or simply encouraged others to become donors, your efforts were appreciated. The Red Cross said the blood drive collected 50 productive blood pints, potentially saving 150 lives!

PREPARING YOUR PREFERRED HEALTHCARE PROVIDER



COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

RESEARCH DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019

Research Abounds!

Graduate students and faculty from the College of Health Sciences showcase their research projects through poster and podium presentations.

Attend all or some of the event - support your program, peers, and colleagues.

Time: 8:45AM-12PM

Place: 1st floor #1106
Multipurpose Room
College of Education

Date: 4/19/2019

Refreshments
Provided

Preparing Your Preferred
Healthcare Provider

SNAPSHOT OF PROGRAM

8:45AM - Arrival

9:00AM - Welcome

9:15-10:15AM - Podium Presentations

10:30-10:45AM - Poster Presentations
and Refreshments

10:45-11:45AM - Podium Presentations

11:45AM-12:00PM - Closing Remarks

CALENDAR

April 2019

- April 18** Dental Hygiene Info Session, 5-6 p.m., Room 2115A
- April 22 or 23** Military Appreciation Luncheon, TBA
- April 23** Classes end
- April 24** COHS Awards & Recognition Luncheon
- April 24** Reading Day
- April 25** Exams Begin

May 2019

- May 2** Exams End
- May 4 & 5** Spring Commencement Ceremonies
- May 28** Memorial Day Holiday (University Closed)

