

Doctoral Mentoring Awards

Three faculty members were commended for their excellence in mentoring at the 2011 Faculty Awards and Retirement Dinner on May 3. The Doctoral Mentoring Award encourages and rewards excellence, innovation and effectiveness in mentoring doctoral students through their dissertation. Through this award, the Office of Graduate Studies seeks to recognize faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to the education, guidance and professional development of graduate students. This year faculty from the colleges of Arts and Letters, Education, and Health Sciences were eligible for the award.



Dr. Linda Bol received the award for the Darden College of Education. Dr. Bol joined Old Dominion

ten years ago and is currently a Professor of Educational Psychology and Research in the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership. She mentors students throughout the College of Education and says, "It is really the most rewarding part of my profession." Dr. Bol also added, "This award means a lot to me, but just reading the students' letters of recommendation is reward enough."



Dr. Jeffrey Richards received the Doctoral Mentoring Award for the College of Arts and Letters. Dr. Richards has been teaching at Old Dominion since 1992. He has served as the Department Chair and is an Eminent Professor in the Department of English. Students wrote exceptional nominations for Dr. Richards, expressing thoughts

such as, "Jeff Richards's talent as a teacher and mentor stems not only from his intellect, but from his desire to engage his students." Another student wrote, "He is the most selfless teacher I have ever known."



Dr. Carolyn Rutledge received this award for the College of Health Sciences. Dr. Rutledge joined Old Dominion University nine years ago and is currently the Director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program. She says the most important part of being a mentor is being a role model which involves "showing people how to achieve their greatest potential." She raved about her students saying, "They have a passion for what they are doing, and they see ways to impact health care. I am just giving them the tools to really make a difference."

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards

Two graduate students were recognized as Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistants at the 2011 Faculty Awards and Retirement Dinner on May 3. Ashley Doane (Ph.D., Applied Experimental Psychology) was awarded Outstanding Classroom Instructor, and Nakul Ramanna (Ph.D., Engineering Technology) was awarded Outstanding Laboratory Instructor.

The Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards are designed to recognize exemplary graduate teaching assistants. Potential award winners are first nominated by faculty members in their department, then nominees compile and submit information packets pertaining to their teaching experience. Graduate teaching assistants in all departments are eligible for the award.



Ashley Doane will be an August 2011 graduate of the Applied Experimental Psychology program. She successfully defended her dissertation

"Testing of a Brief Internet Cyberbullying Prevention Program in College Students" on May 3, 2011 before the awards ceremony. She has been a teaching assistant for four years, and this past year she taught Child Psychology and Quantitative Methods. Doane enjoys teaching others about psychology and says, "I like to give a lot of real life examples in class and have students relate the material to their own lives." Her advice to other teaching assistants is, "Use other faculty members as resources, and don't be afraid to ask for advice."



Nakul Ramanna is a Ph.D. student in the Civil Engineering program. Originally from Bangalore, India, Ramanna has had extensive teaching experience both at his undergraduate institution of Visvesvaraya Technological University and at Old Dominion University.

Over the past four years he has taught Soils Testing Laboratory and Materials Testing Laboratory among other classes. He says his favorite part of being a teaching assistant is spreading the knowledge of engineering. His advice to other laboratory teaching assistants is, "Since many labs are only worth one credit, students may need you to push them more, and they may need more one-on-one time. Give them your time."

Graduate Research Achievement Day

The first annual Graduate Research Achievement Day (GRAD) was a huge success! Thank you to all graduate presenters!



Provost Simpson and Dr. Overstreet speaking with Ann Schlaefter about her research on Improving Assessment of Otitis Media in High Risk Pediatric Populations



President Broderick speaking with Jasmine Dolan about her research on the Impact of Expanded Asthma Education on Medication Adherence, Utilization, and Productivity within a Specialty Practice

Where are they now?



Dr. Allison Greene-Sands graduated from Old Dominion University in 2003 with a Ph.D. in International Studies. She is currently the Associate Director for Culture for the Defense Language Office within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for

Personnel and Readiness. Dr. Greene-Sands is primarily responsible for the research and analysis that informs culture-related policy for the Department of Defense. These policies influence how the military educates and trains their personnel to be more in tune with the cultures they encounter. Dr. Greene-Sands says the faculty of the Graduate Program in International Studies (GPIS) greatly influenced her studies at ODU. She says, "My education taught me more than just what you learn in a book. The faculty's experiences brought a depth and a context to the classroom." She says she also loved the diversity of the ODU student body. Her advice to graduate students is, "Realize the tremendous amount of resources available to you, and make sure you take advantage of them while you're there."



Dr. Kurt Peters graduated from ODU with a Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2009. He currently works for MITRE Corporation, a federally-funded research and develop-

ment corporation, in Colorado Springs, CO. Dr. Peters conducts research for the government, which involves satellite communications, wireless networking, network solutions, and electronic protection among other duties. He says his favorite aspects of Old Dominion were the student body, the location, and all the opportunities that were presented to him. Dr. Peters' advice to graduate students is, "Perseverance is the key." He says many students lose momentum in a Ph.D. program, and sometimes it takes friends to motivate and encourage you to get you back on track. Dr. Peters also says his advisor Dr. Albin was instrumental to his success.



Dr. Brandi Blessett successfully defended her dissertation in April 2011 and received her Ph.D. in Public Administration and Urban Policy. Dr. Blessett moved to Orlando, FL for an instructor position at the University of Central Florida in July 2010, and she has already secured a tenure-track position at the univer-

sity. Dr. Blessett says her ability to attend research conferences was an integral part of her success at ODU. Her advice for graduate students is, "Just be prepared. Try to position yourself well within your studies and within your network, because those connections become worthwhile." She says graduate students cannot always be sure when a great opportunity is coming their way, so always be ready. Dr. Blessett has a passion for helping people. She says she loves her position at UCF because, "there is a strong focus in community outreach. I get to interact with students and teach, and at same time develop organization skills." Dr. Blessett says she would love to move back to her home town of Detroit one day to help in the revitalization effort for the city.

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Graduate News is online!
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