OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
STUDENT HONORS AND AWARES VIRTUAL CELEBRATION
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

[Introductory Video]

[A Video Message from President Broderick]

PRESIDENT BRODERICK:

Welcome to the 2020 Student Honors and Awards Virtual Celebration · I am pleased and honored that you have joined us online today · Although we cannot be together in person, I hope this will be a memorable experience for our honor students and guests ·

Honorees, it is a privilege to be the first to congratulate you on your achievements today ·

At Old Dominion University, our primary goal is to create a solid foundation for student success · Old Dominion continues to be Virginia’s most affordable doctoral institution – and among the most diverse and inclusive · Our faculty create a rich learning environment with innovative instruction, and today you will acknowledge some of these inspirational faculty and staff members who have helped you succeed ·

Kate and I are proud of all of the students who have attained academic excellence, contributed high-quality research and passionately given their time to help make our community a better place · We especially thank you for your commitment to excellence during these difficult and uncertain times ·

And now, we will announce our nominees and winners · I look forward to congratulating each of you in person later this year ·

It is my honor to announce our first award winners this evening ·

In 2011, my wife, First Lady Kate Broderick, and I created the Evon-Broderick Award for Community Engagement and Service in honor of our mothers, Joan Evon and Ellen Broderick – two special women who gave so much of themselves · Our award recipients exemplify a commitment to service and civic engagement, benefiting the university and surrounding community ·

This year’s award recipients are:

Tarnika Edmunds · Ms. Edmunds is a Human Services major from the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies · She is also pursuing minors in Criminal Justice and Women’s Studies ·

Melvin Roy · Mr. Roy is a Human Services major from the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies who is also pursuing a minor in Psychology ·
Darius Womack · Mr. Womack is a Health and Physical Education major from the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies.

And our final winner is Flora Yapi · Ms. Yapi is an Economics major from the Strome College of Business pursuing a minor in Communication.

Congratulations to all of our Evon-Broderick Award recipients!

NARRATOR:

The Alumni Association recognizes the undergraduate student in each college with the highest academic average who will have completed at least 60 hours at the University ·

Among these honorees, one graduate is chosen for the Outstanding University Scholar Award, the highest honor awarded by the Alumni Association ·

Each of these honor graduates was asked to choose the faculty member who most inspired him or her to excel · The honor student and his or her most inspirational faculty member will be recognized at this time ·

This year’s honor graduate in the College of Arts and Letters is Victoria Vandenbroucke ·

She will graduate with a major in Communication with a concentration in Cinema and TV Production and a minor in Studio Art ·

Mr. David Mallin, is the faculty member who most inspired her ·

The honor graduate in the Strome College of Business is Kayla Lopez · She will graduate with a major in Business Management and a minor in Business Analytics ·

She selected Dr. Emily Campion as her most inspirational faculty member ·

Tori Arthurs is the honor graduate for the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies · Ms. Arthurs will graduate with a major in Human Services and a minor in Children’s Rights ·

Ms. Karen Joachim is the faculty member who most inspired her ·

This year’s honor graduate in the Batten College of Engineering and Technology is Preslav Ivanov · Mr. Ivanov will graduate with a double major in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering ·

Mr. Ivanov has selected Dr. Lee Belfore as his most inspirational faculty ·

In the College of Health Sciences, this year’s honor graduate is Jennifer Kennard · Ms. Kennard will graduate with a degree in Nursing and a minor in Psychology ·
She selected Dr. Linda Bennington, as her most inspirational faculty member.

This year’s honor graduate in the College of Sciences is Rachael Crews. Ms. Crews will graduate with a degree in Biology.

She has selected Dr. Ian Bartol as her most inspirational faculty member.

From the six outstanding college scholars, the Alumni Association has the very difficult task of selecting one student who exemplifies academic excellence as well as overall achievement during his or her time here at the university.

The 2020 Outstanding University Scholar Award winner is Jennifer Kennard from the College of Health Sciences.

Congratulations Ms. Kennard!

The Provost’s Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher honors individuals who have exemplified excellence in research while at Old Dominion University. The selection is based on the uniqueness of the research, longevity of the experience, and contributions to the discipline through presentations, publications, exhibitions and performances.

Now we will recognize the nine recipients of the Provost’s Award.

The first honoree Angelos Angelopoulos created a deep neural network which predicts optimal input parameters for a medical image registration framework which is essential for tumor resection during image-guided neurosurgery.

Mr. Angelopoulos was nominated by Dr. Nikos Chrisochoides.

Our next honoree is Sarah Bulger. Sarah’s undergraduate research career started in the classroom and culminated in her work assisting in the excavation of an ancient Roman bakery in Morocco. She was the research assistant on this project and is a coauthor of a forthcoming preliminary report.

Ms. Bulger was nominated by Dr. Jared Benton.

Our third honoree is Casey Hayes. Ms. Hayes’s undergraduate research career began when she volunteered to work in a faculty member’s lab to learn more about the study of animal behavior. Her work culminates in a senior honors thesis studying the cognitive and social abilities of acorn woodpeckers.

She was nominated Dr. Eric Walters.

Next, we will honor Sean Leonard. When Mr. Leonard was still a freshman, he was recruited to participate, as sole student researcher and developer, for a one-year project “Explorative
Volume Flow Visualization in Virtual Environments for Big Data Analysis” funded by the Program for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship.

Mr. Leonard was nominated by Dr. Zhanping Liu.

Our next Provost Award honoree is Mary Olson. Ms. Olson’s research has obtained excellent results in the synthesis and characterizations of novel molecular systems and biomaterials.

She was nominated by Dr. Guijun Wang.

Our next honoree is Alden Rinehold. Over the course of his undergraduate research career, Mr. Rinehold has been trained to perform molecular cloning; he has made vectors for recombinant protein expression and has purified proteins for enzyme activity analysis.

He was nominated by Dr. Erin Purcell.

Our next honoree is Heather Sheffey. Her research focuses on the development of predictive modeling of the northern star coral’s response to climate conditions predicted for 2050 and 2100.

Ms. Sheffey was nominated by Dr. Anna Tansik.

Next, we will honor Lucas Tracy. Mr. Tracy’s work analyzes electron-nucleus collision data from the CLAS6 detector at Jefferson Lab. His research could have a significant impact on the planned multi-billion dollar Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment.

He was nominated by Dr. Lawrence Weinstein.

Our final student honoree for the Provost’s Award is Taylor Webb. In Spring 2018, Ms. Webb was recruited by the Team for Acculturation, Risk, and Development of Identity and Self, also known as TARDIS, to be a Research Assistant. Ms. Webb was selected to serve as the first-ever TARDIS Lab Manager.

She was nominated by Dr. Alan Meca.

Congratulations! The University will now recognize the finalists and recipient of the Kaufman Award.

The Kaufman Award was established by Landmark Communications to recognize graduating seniors who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership and service. The award is named in memory of Charles Kaufman, noted community leader, philanthropist and friend to Old Dominion University.

Following Mr. Kaufman’s example, the award winner must have shown sustained participation in leadership, an outstanding record of volunteer activities or academic achievement, or the achievement of a major task affecting the campus or community.
Our first finalist is Negus Assefa. Mr. Assefa will graduate with a major in Criminal Justice and Sociology and a minor in Political Science.

He selected Dr. Randy Gainey, as his most inspirational faculty member.

Our next finalist is Kaitlin DiDomenico. Ms. DiDomenico will graduate with a double major in Accounting and Business Analytics.

Her most inspirational faculty member is Ms. Vivian Paige.

Our next finalist is Stephen Greiling. Mr. Greiling will graduate with a major in Civil Engineering and a minor in Environmental Engineering.

His most inspirational faculty member is Ms. Linda Wallace.

Our next finalist is Kayla Hill-Jones. She will graduate with a major in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in Political Science.

Her most inspirational faculty member is Ms. Taryn Boone.

Our next finalist for the Kaufman Award is Mariah Johnson. Ms. Johnson will graduate with a major in Communication.

Her most inspirational faculty member is Dr. David Metzger.

Our next finalist for the Kaufman Award is Jamayca Madolid. Ms. Madolid will graduate with a major in Business Management and minor in Business Analytics.

She selected Dr. Sheila Keener as her most inspirational faculty member.

Our last finalist for the Kaufman Award is Jordan Smith. Mr. Smith will graduate with a major in Modeling and Simulation Engineering and a minor in Computer Science and Engineering Management.

His most inspirational faculty member is Dr. Don Stansberry.

Congratulations, everyone! And now we will announce the first and second place winners.

The second place Kaufman Award winner is Stephen Greiling.

Now, please join me in congratulating our first place 2020 Kaufman Award winner, Kaitlin DiDomenico.

Congratulations to all of our Kaufman Honorees and Winners!
This concludes the awards portion of our program. We invite you to visit the Grad Week Student Awards webpage to read more about this year’s honorees. Congratulations once more to all of our students and their inspirational faculty members. Best of luck for continued success. You did it!

We will close out this celebration by joining the Diehn Chorale in singing the Alma Mater.

Thank you for joining us!

[Alma Mater Video]

DIEHN CHORALE (OLD DOMINION, HAIL):

Hail to thee our Alma Mater

Blue and Silver, hail!

By the ocean’s billows flying
See them proudly sail!

University young and strong,
We lift our voices in this song,
This our Song of Alma Mater,
Old Dominion, hail!