

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

One Center. Many By Your Side.



February 2024

Welcome to the Academic Success Center's (ASC) quarterly newsletter. We hope this communication will help spread the word about the work we do to support students and faculty. There are many of us in the ASC, but our goal is the same - successful student outcomes.



WHAT'S NEW



The **Academic Success Peer Mentors** engage with students every other Thursday during activity hour at tables inside Webb Center.

During this time, peer mentors can meet with students, answer questions, and design academic success plans unique to student needs. The Academic Success Peer Mentors can schedule 1-1 follow-up appointments with students to help with things like time management, organization, study habits, note-taking skills, and more. Peer mentors are located behind the front desk inside the Student Success Center building.

Pictured on the left: Academic Success Peer Mentors Rayonna Murray, Crystal Goulart, and Hanna Bowden.



The Academic Success Center welcomes the **First Star Academy** to its family of programs. First Star's mission is to provide high school youth in foster care with the opportunity, tools, and support to successfully transition to self-sufficiency through higher education or other viable pathways.

Alexia Hargrove has assumed the role of Director working with Academic Success Center leadership and other stakeholders for a smooth transition to the unit. ODU First Star Academy joins the ASC's one other pre-college program, **TRiO Upward Bound**, a federally-funded program whose goal is to motivate and provide academic assistance to eligible high schools students who show promise for success in education beyond high school. **Welcome to the ASC, Alexia and First Star!**

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Monarch Internship and Co-Op Office



MONARCHS ON THE MOVE: FUELING FUTURES ONE EVENT AT A TIME

As the Monarch Internship and Co-Op Office marks its seventh month of operation, under the guidance of Executive Director Dr. Barbara Blake, the team has maintained a full itinerary. The month commenced with Dr. Saige Hill and intern Mackenzie Dellolio hosting the ACCESS College Foundation Lunch and Learn event, where they presented on internship basics and tips to help students thrive once they've obtained an internship.

Stakeholders from the community, along with a number of other staff, hosted a thought provoking panel discussion at the 2024 ODU Monarch Student Leadership Conference on February 9th. Representatives from Northwestern Mutual and The Garrett Companies offered insight into the future of work-based learning and all things internships.

Interns Ronald Fermin & Seth Smith spoke to thirty-plus members of the Psi Chi Honors Society to discuss internship opportunities in psychology and related fields. As our team looks forward, we are excited for the plethora of endeavors that lie ahead!



Transfer Tuesday



Psi Chi Internship Night



HRACRE Career Fair



Employee Interactions this month

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ODU TRIO PROGRAMS CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRIO DAY



In a momentous occasion on Thursday, February 22, 2024, the TRiO programs at Old Dominion University (Student Support Services; Upward Bound; McNair Scholars) came together to celebrate **National TRiO Day** for the first time ever, marking a significant milestone in the institution's commitment to student success and diversity.

The event, themed "Celebrating the Resilience and Triumphs of Our Diverse Population," was held in a vibrant room bustling with enthusiastic students and dedicated stakeholders. This gathering was not just a celebration but a testament to the enduring spirit and achievements of the TRiO community at ODU.

Keynote speaker **Reneldo Randall, a trio alum and Director of Advising for the College of Sciences at ODU**, delivered a powerful address that resonated deeply with the audience. His words illuminated the importance of resilience in the face of challenges and the triumphs that come from dedication and hard work. Randall's message underscored the core values of the TRiO programs – empowerment, perseverance, and the pursuit of excellence.

A highlight of the event was the special shout-out to the amazing accomplishments of our students. These acknowledgments served as a reminder of the incredible talent and determination within the TRiO community. From academic achievements to personal growth stories, each highlighted journey was a celebration of the hard-won successes of our students.

As the room echoed with stories of triumph over adversity, it was clear that the TRiO programs at ODU are more than just academic initiatives; they are a vital support network fostering an environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

The celebration of National TRiO Day at ODU was a resounding success. It was a day of joy, inspiration, and a collective commitment to continuing the legacy of resilience and triumph within the TRiO programs.



**Happy National TRiO Day,
TRiO Faculty & Staff!**

TRIO: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

A SEMESTER OF SUCCESS AND GROWTH

Student Support Services (SSS) has kicked off the semester with remarkable success, demonstrating the program's vital role in fostering academic excellence and student development. As they embarked on this semester, SSS began at full capacity, a testament to the high demand and effectiveness of the services offered. The growing waitlist further highlights the program's popularity and the trust students place in it for their academic and personal growth.

One of the key strengths of SSS this semester has been the active participation of students in various program offerings. Our students have shown commendable dedication, regularly attending tutoring sessions, counseling, and seminars – all designed to enhance their academic journey and personal development.

TRiO SSS Counselor, Tina Sorial, led the "Semester Success Launchpad" seminar held on January 11, 2024. Thirty-one participants attended and learned valuable insights about academic success strategies and ways to set a positive tone for the semester.



Following the momentum, the "Scholarship Sprint" session on January 25 drew an even larger crowd of 35 students. This event focused on upcoming scholarship opportunities and the steps to successfully apply for them. Additionally, it introduced students to various methods of identifying and applying for scholarships, an invaluable skill in their academic careers.

Another highlight was the session introducing students to study abroad opportunities and undergraduate research, held on February 8. This event was instrumental in broadening students' horizons, encouraging them to explore the global dimensions of their education and the exciting possibilities of research at the undergraduate level.

The successful turnout and engagement in these events signify the effectiveness of SSS in empowering ODU students. By providing comprehensive support, SSS not only aids in academic achievement but also in cultivating a well-rounded educational experience.

In addition to the impressive array of events and activities this semester, a significant highlight for Student Support Services (SSS) was the recognition of our exceptional counselors at the **ODU's First Year Scholars Ceremony**. This event serves to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of faculty and staff in enhancing the first-year experience for students. **Emily Harmon** and **Tina Sorial**, both of our dedicated SSS counselors, were honored for their extraordinary commitment and impactful work with students. Their recognition is a testament to their unwavering dedication and the positive influence they have had on the lives of countless students at ODU.

Tina Sorial, in particular, received the most recognition across the entire campus. This accolade is a remarkable achievement and speaks volumes about the quality of support and guidance she provides. Tina's approach, which blends professional expertise with genuine care and empathy, has made a significant difference in the academic and personal journeys of many students.

The accolades received by Emily and Tina at the ceremony are not just personal achievements but also highlight the overall excellence of the Student Support Services at ODU. Their recognition underscores the program's commitment to providing top-tier support and resources, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed and flourish.

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TRIO: MCNAIR SCHOLARS

McNair Scholars attended a Welcome Back Event to kick off the Spring 24 Semester! They had an awesome time engaging in team-building activities requiring them to tackle challenges, overcome barriers, and find creating ways to problem solve. This event reflected some of the real-life challenges they endure as scholars.



Two of the McNair Scholars (**Deja Thompson** and **Arely Rangel-Gomez**) were selected to present at the **Monarch Leadership Conference** in February.

Presentations focused on Mental Health Magic and Health & Nourishing Minds, Empowering Lives: Your College Wellness Guide. The McNair Scholars did an excellent job sharing their insights with their peers and ODU staff. A number of scholars were selected to participate in the Undergraduate Research Symposium, Eastern Psychological Association Conference, University of Maryland McNair Scholars Research Conference, Academy of Criminal Justice Science Conference, and the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing Convention (NBASLH).



ODU McNair is gearing up for their Spring Break Research & Grad School Retreat at the Outer Banks in North Carolina.

In addition, ODU McNair is celebrating the accomplishments of their scholars to include acceptances into fully-funded PhD programs and master's programs, Research Experiences for Undergraduate Programs, Internships, and the McNair Summer Research Institute.

For more information about TRiO McNair Scholars, contact Director of the program, Sheriyse Williams at smwillia@odu.edu.

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ANNUAL CAMPUS THEME (ACT)

Transitions: Our Experiences, Development, and Adaptation



Annual Campus Theme (ACT) is a multi-disciplinary campus initiative that aims to encourage discovery, growth, and engagement in today's national and global conversations. ACT combines academic courses, public lectures and exhibits, film showings, and other events to engage faculty, staff, students, and the community in a collective learning experience about a timely, relevant issue.

THE 2024-2025 THEME IS TRANSITIONS: OUR EXPERIENCES, DEVELOPMENT, AND ADAPTATION.

TRANSITIONS explores the many shifts that occur through personal, professional, or social experiences. Considering upcoming events such as the ODU/EVMS integrations, the presidential election, and others, this theme will offer space for the campus community to engage, learn, and reflect during times of change. Transitions can be explored from various disciplines and perspectives – the arts, sciences, business, education, engineering, health, cyber, and more.

The request for proposals will remain open until Friday, March 29, 2024. Faculty and faculty administrators are encouraged to apply:

https://odu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3eZfNp76ISKUXEq.

For more information about ACT, contact Director of Academic Initiatives, LaShay McQueen at lwiyatt@odu.edu.

To learn more about courses and events that reflect the **Annual Campus Theme**, visit odu.edu/themed-year.

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ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

Join the **ODU Tutoring Partners' Task Force** in considering AI's impact on tutoring practices. The first panel of the series explored how AI has impacted the ways tutoring teams support students. The next session on March 19 will be a student panel, moderated by Vice Provost Brian Payne. The panel will explore how tutors have experienced AI use in connection to services offered and how they use AI to support academic success.

For more information about the panel series, contact Dr. Diana Hernandez at dmhernan@odu.edu.

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence



AI FYI: The Future of Tutoring

Join the ODU Tutoring Partners' Task Force in considering AI's impact on tutoring practices!

MARCH 19 1:-00-2:00 PM **AI in Academic Support: Insights from ODU Students**
Online: bit.ly/aitutorstudents

APRIL 2 12:30-1:30 PM **Navigating Tomorrow's Tutoring: Personalized Learning, AI, and Human Connection**
Learning Commons 1310-1311

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TUTORING CENTRAL

ODU has over 12 different tutoring centers across campus supporting hundreds of undergraduate courses and employing dozens of undergraduate peer tutors.

The Academic Success Center collaborates with all tutoring centers to discuss, coordinate, and evaluate efforts related to formalized tutoring services for students at Old Dominion University with the common goals of supporting student learning in the classroom, improving students' academic performance in challenging courses, and increasing student retention.

For a complete listing of centers and supported courses, please visit odu.edu/success/academic/tutoring.

Science Tutoring Centers (STC) serve as the hub for free tutoring resources for courses that fall under the College of Sciences. The college provides the following tutoring centers:

Biological Sciences Tutoring Center	Stats Lab
Chemistry Success Center	Geometry Lab
Computer Science Undergraduate Resource Center	Math 307 & 316 Help
Mathematics & Statistics Tutoring	Ocean & Earth Tutoring Center
ODU Smart Room	Physics Learning Center
Calculus Lab	Psychology Tutoring Center
Applied Calculus Math	

Walk-in tutoring & online tutoring is available.

Some centers also offer online tutoring by appointment.
Specific course information can be found on the following website:
<https://www.odu.edu/science-tutoring-centers>.

The **STC** also offers Supplemental Instruction (SI) for Biol 121N General Biology I, Biol 123N General Biology II, Biology 294 Genetics & Psc 317 Quantitative Methods (In-Person & Online)

For questions or comments, please email stcinfo@odu.edu.

Check out what STC tutees have said:

"I was able to collaborate with other students in my course to solve the problem i had issues with along with the tutor in the room at the time."

"The tutor was very helpful and kind to help me understand my problem."

"They made sure that when i walked out I understood the concepts i was confused on."



ANDREA STEPHEN

Manager, Science Academic Support Services
Science Tutoring Center (STC)
College of Sciences

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ADVISING AVENUE

The Transfer Initiatives Team hosts **TRANSFER TUESDAYS**



FALL 2023 HIGHLIGHT

Transfer Center pre-transfer advisors completed 400+ pre-transfer advising appointments and 350+ student contacts via the Transfer Center hotline

- Transfer Advisors saved transfer students 800+ credits through the transfer credit degree audit.

New Additions to Advising

The **College of Arts & Letters Advising Center** welcomes new transfer advisor, **William Chappel**, who began his role on February 26.

The **Batten College of Engineering & Technology Advising Center** welcomes new Transfer Academic Success Advisor, **Liz Hudy**.

And finally, Academic Advisor, **Sierra Garrett**, welcomes the newest addition to her family, **Teagan Nyx Garrett**, born on January 17, 2024. Both Sierra and baby are doing great and settling in well.



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ePORTFOLIO & DIGITAL INITIATIVES

ePortfolio Studio



The ePortfolio and Digital Initiatives team were invited to participate in the celebration of student compositions at ODU's 45th Annual Spring Conference on the Teaching of Writing on February 21st-22nd. We showcased examples of ePortfolios from ePortfolio Assistants and past winners of the ePortfolio Competition. Emily Hill, the ePortfolio Graduate Assistant, also created a video to emphasize the importance of ePortfolios and the impact they can have on students' professional and personal opportunities. In addition to the individual ePortfolios being displayed, Emily's ePortfolio video played throughout the two-day conference for attendees to watch in the showcase room.

The team also hosted the CyberLeADERS 3 Minute ePortfolio (3MeP) event on February 23rd. Modeled after 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) events, this showcase provided participants with a platform to present their skills, experiences, and achievements through their ePortfolios. Each presenter had precisely three minutes to spotlight 2-3 sections of their ePortfolio, highlighting their expertise in cybersecurity. Attendees engaged in real-time feedback, fostering collaboration as presenters navigated their website content. The event concluded with attendees voting for the most compelling portfolios, spotlighting the remarkable talent within the ODU cybersecurity community.



LEARN MORE

odu.edu/asis/eportfolio

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STUDENT WORKER SPOTLIGHT



EMILY MARANTO HILL

ePortfolio Graduate Assistant
*Office of Academic Success
Initiatives & Support (ASIS)*

My name is Emily, and I am a graduate student at ODU in the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts.

I am currently in my first year of grad school studying Lifespan and Digital Communication. This is my first semester with the ePortfolio team, but I have over 5 years of experience in the marketing and communication space, so I am no stranger to the importance of branding. I most enjoy helping other students with the storytelling aspect of their ePortfolio, as I love how ePortfolios are an archival collection of your best work.

View Emily's [ePortfolio](#) to learn more.

FACULTY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



ALISON M. LIETZENMAYER

Master Lecturer, University Distinguished Teacher
Director of Senior Experiences & Internships
Communication & Theatre Arts

Faculty Development Director
Humanities Internship Academy

[View Alison's ePortfolio here.](#)

Alison Lietzenmayer serves as a Master Lecturer and was awarded the title of University Distinguished Teacher at Old Dominion University in 2019. She is a dedicated Communication instructor currently focused on high-impact practices and work-based learning opportunities in her position as the Director of the Senior Experience and Internship within the Department of Communication & Theatre Arts.

Alison has partnered with leading scholars to support research in family communication, work-life communication, and digital ePortfolio development.

Her work appears in publications such as Journal of Family Communication, AEPR, ETC: A Review of General Semantic, and Teaching Professor.

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FEATURED PROGRAM

First Year Scholars Program & Reception

The First Year Scholars reception recognizes full-time freshmen who earned a 3.5 or higher GPA in the fall semester. These students are recognized at an annual reception and become eligible to join **Phi Eta Sigma**, the oldest first-year honor society in the country.

Approximately 730 students met the criteria for fall 2023, and over 100 students attended the reception. Each student received a certificate and a swag item of their choice.

Dr. Brian Payne gave the keynote address that focused on empowering students to think critically. Academic advisors were recognized for their role in helping students maintain academic success. And over 120 faculty/staff received comments from freshmen indicating how much they impacted their lives in their first semester. Close to 40 of those faculty attended the event and received a certificate and letter as well.

To learn more about the First Year Scholars program please contact Joe Ritchie at jlritchi@odu.edu



Pictured from left to right, faculty and advisors from the Batten College of Engineering and Technology: Nathan Holland, Kathy Boone, Kristin Eden, Orlando Ayala



JOE RITCHIE

Senior Advising Director

Center for Advising Administration & Academic Partnerships (3AP)

THE NUMBERS

3.5+

**REQUIRED
FALL GPA**

730

**STUDENTS
ELIGIBLE**

120+

**FACULTY
SHOUT OUTS**

OUR MISSION

Housed inside the Student Success Center, the Academic Success Center (ASC) empowers learners to thrive academically, personally, and professionally. The Academic Success Center provides an inclusive environment dedicated to building authentic relationships and community, fostering meaningful learning experiences, and collaborating with learners as they pursue their passion and purpose.

In keeping with the mission of the University, the Academic Success Center advocates for all Monarchs and actively supports their pursuit of excellence at ODU and beyond.



MARISSA A. JIMENEZ

Interim Assistant Vice President for Academic Success and Executive Director of the Academic Success Center

To learn more about the Academic Success Center or have ideas for future collaborations, please contact Marissa at mjimenez@odu.edu

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