Nestled within the heart of Hampton Roads lies a hidden treasure trove of aquatic ecosystems, often overshadowed by the grandeur of coastal landscapes. With its serene allure and intricate ecological dynamics, the network of ponds in Chesapeake, Virginia, serves as a microcosm of life and vitality, beckoning us to delve deeper into its mysteries.
In conjunction with the Annual Campus Theme (ACT) at Old Dominion University, the project “Blue Connection: Life in and Around Ponds in Chesapeake, Virginia” fuses art and science. This endeavor, undertaken by Clinical Assistant Professor Angela Wilson and her dedicated cohort of students, unveils the beauty and significance of these overlooked aquatic habitats.

These ponds, often overshadowed by the coastal landscapes, hold a significant story of life and vitality. While natural lakes are scarce in Virginia, Chesapeake boasts over 300 stormwater ponds, each serving as a vital sanctuary for a myriad of plants and animals. Whether man-made or natural, these ponds play a crucial role in managing excess rainwater, fostering biodiversity, and maintaining ecological balance.

Through captivating microscopic and macroscopic photography, Professor Wilson and her students illuminate the hidden beauty of these aquatic habitats. From intricate patterns of microscopic organisms to breathtaking vistas of vibrant flora and fauna, their photography offers a window into the rich tapestry of life thriving within and around these ponds.

This project bridges the realms of art and science, offering a platform for collective learning and engagement. It teaches us about the interconnectedness of all living things and underscores the importance of environmental stewardship.

Starting March 11, you’re invited to the Perry Library to experience the “Blue Connection: Life in and Around Ponds in Chesapeake, Virginia.” Bring your friends and family for an adventure into the underwater world right in our own backyard.

Three researchers from School of Rehabilitation Sciences selected for ODU Summer Research Fellowship Program

We are proud to announce that three distinguished researchers from the School of Rehabilitation Sciences have been selected for the prestigious ODU Summer Research Fellowship Program. Their innovative proposals have earned recognition and support from the College Research Committee and the Faculty Senate’s Scholarly Activity and Research Committee. Join us in congratulating:

- Dr. Heather Hamilton, PhD: “Relationship between menopausal symptoms, training, and recovery in female runners”  
- Dr. Sonia Khurana, PhD: “Neural and biomechanical correlates of walking in typically developing children and children with Autism: A pilot study”  
- Dr. Ashwini Kulkarni, PhD: “Adaptive gait stability after perturbation-based treadmill gait training in Parkinson’s Disease”  

The Summer Research Fellowship Program, administered by the Old Dominion University Office of Research, aims to provide seed money for research and future scholarly endeavors, primarily benefiting non-tenured tenure-track faculty. Eligible applicants include tenure-track and tenured
Associate Professor Tara L. Newcomb Earns Certification as a Certified Biological Dental Hygienist

Associate Professor Tara L. Newcomb, from the School of Dental Hygiene in the College of Health Sciences at Old Dominion University, has recently attained the distinction of becoming a Certified Biological Dental Hygienist® through the International Academy of Biological Dentistry and Medicine (IABDM). This certification highlights her commitment to advancing her field and embracing innovative approaches to dental care.

As a current member of the IABDM, she actively contributes to the organization’s mission of promoting biological dental and dental hygiene care. In her role as a committee member for the organization’s section on dental hygiene, she continues to demonstrate her dedication to excellence and collaboration within her profession. The International Academy of Biological Dentistry and Medicine advocates for precision medicine, biocompatible diagnostics, and therapeutic approaches in dental care, emphasizing understanding root causes and embracing whole-body health concepts to alleviate various dental concerns.

With her new certification, Professor Newcomb’s research endeavors will focus on evidence-based applications of biological dental hygiene theory and practice, further advancing our understanding and implementation of holistic dental care approaches. This achievement serves as an inspiration to faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the wider community, highlighting Professor Newcomb’s dedication to excellence in her field.

Assistant Professor Eric Schussler, PhD, Appointed to ACAPT Dissemination Task Force
Eric Schussler, PhD, from the School of Rehabilitation Sciences in the College of Health Sciences at Old Dominion University, has been appointed to the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) Dissemination Task Force. This task force focuses on exploring the feasibility, value, and mechanisms of disseminating scholarly work that advances academic physical therapy and ACAPT's prioritized focus areas. Its efforts promote knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation, ultimately benefiting patients and the healthcare community.

Eric's appointment reflects his dedication to advancing the field of Physical Therapy and contributing his expertise to scholarly dissemination. This opportunity not only honors Eric's contributions but also represents a valuable opportunity for ODU to enhance scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) practices and dissemination efforts.

**Exercise Science Faculty Promotions**

Please congratulate the following exercise science faculty on their recent promotions:

- Kyle Davis promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer
- Phil Sabatini promoted from Senior Lecturer to Master Lecturer

These achievements reflect the ongoing excellence and growth within our faculty, enriching the academic experience for our students and strengthening our community partnerships.
Annual Faye E. Coleman Memorial Blood Drive on March 20

The Faye E. Coleman Memorial Blood Drive, sponsored by the Medical Laboratory Science Student Association, will take place in the front lobby of the Chartway Arena on Wednesday, March 20, from 10am to 4pm. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code “Monarchs.”

Faye E. Coleman was an esteemed figure at Old Dominion University who dedicated 55 years to the medical laboratory science profession, with 40 of those years spent at ODU. Her legacy of excellence and commitment continues to inspire the ODU community.

Recent Publications

Dental hygiene students’ matching accuracy when comparing antemortem dental radiographs and oral photographs to simulated postmortem WinID3® odontograms
Brenda Bradshaw, Amber Hunt, Emily Ludwig, Tara Newcomb, School of Dental Hygiene
Dental hygiene formal education provides foundational skills that are transferrable for forensic odontology.

Athletic trainers’ perceptions of and experiences with salary negotiation decision-making during the hiring process
Julie Cavallario, School of Rehabilitation Sciences
Study on athletic trainers’ negotiation decisions highlights key factors shaping salary discussions, emphasizing the need for better training and resources for effective negotiation.

Athletic Trainers’ Perceptions of and Experiences with Professional Development Approaches for Enhancing Clinical Documentation
Julie Cavallario, School of Rehabilitation Sciences
Study examines how athletic trainers learn clinical documentation. Web-based modules boost knowledge and confidence, but consistency in resources is lacking. Recommendations: integrate documentation training, expand web-based education for trainers.

Virtual preclinic sessions: A solution for dental hygiene programs
Amber Hunt and Ann Bruhn, School of Dental Hygiene
While flexibility during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic enabled strategic ways to provide content, the use of virtual clinics in dental hygiene could have future benefits for extended absences or planned sessions with an approved distance learning policy and curriculum change approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

An In-Depth Look at Cleidocranial Dysplasia
Amber Hunt and Brenda Bradshaw, School of Dental Hygiene
In order to provide the best possible patient care, oral health professionals need to be aware of the characteristics, pathophysiology, treatment, and oral considerations of this genetic condition.

Health Profession Students’ Interprofessional Socialization and Values Toward a College-Based Virtual Interprofessional Education Activity
Denise McKinney, School of Dental Hygiene
Research on virtual interprofessional education finds increased collaboration and values among health profession students. Virtual activities prove effective during the pandemic for fostering teamwork.

Populational Variations of Cheiloscopy Patterns: A cross-sectional observation pilot study
Emily Smith Regan, Brenda Bradshaw, Ann M. Bruhn, Walter Melvin, Sinjini Sikdar, School of Dental Hygiene
Lip print variations among populations are not affected by parafunctional oral habits.

Effect of Video Feedback Model Type in Youth Athletes Performing an American Football Tackle
Eric Schussler, School of Rehabilitation Sciences
Research finds combined video feedback enhances safe tackling in youth football, allowing athletes to compare their form with experts. This could lead to safer training methods in sports.

The 50 Most Cited Papers on Rugby since 2000 Reveal a Focus Primarily on Strength and Conditioning in Elite Male Players
Eric Schussler, School of Rehabilitation Sciences
Analysis of top-cited rugby papers since 2000 shows a bias towards professional male athletes, overlooking injury prevention for community players and women. Urgent need for more inclusive research.
The effect of standing posture on amplitude and variability of postural tremor in Parkinson's disease
Eric Schussler, School of Rehabilitation Sciences
Study explores sitting vs. standing impact on tremors in older adults and Parkinson's patients. Tremors were stronger and less regular when standing. Frequency stayed consistent regardless of posture, suggesting task-related tremor changes.

Combined 3D Bioprinting and Tissue-Specific ECM System Reveals the Influence of Brain Matrix on Stem Cell Differentiation
Martina Zamponi, Peter Mollica, Yara Khodour, Julie Bjerring, Robert Bruno, School of Medical Diagnostic and Translational Sciences
Study finds brain extracellular matrix directs stem cells towards neural pathways without extra stimuli. Using 3D bioprinting, researchers create neural structures from embryonic stem cells, suggesting BMX's potential in neural tissue engineering.

Call for Stories, Publications
The College of Health Sciences will be listing recent faculty publications. If you've published a paper this semester, click here to share your publications.

Share your stories about:
- Research
- Grants
- Teaching success
- Awards and honors
- Student success
- Alumni success
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Students getting experience in the field
- Community service
- Events
- Anything else that shows how unique our programs are and how great it is to be a Monarch!
- If you are featured in the media, please share that as well.

Deadline to be featured in the next newsletter is March 19, but the "call for stories" is constant. Please share your story ideas with Erica Howell at ehhowell@odu.edu.

Follow us on LinkedIn

Follow the official Old Dominion University College of Health Sciences LinkedIn page for the latest updates on events, research, and important announcements. Join the conversation as we share and discuss publications, articles, and industry insights. Your engagement helps us build a vibrant community, fostering connections between faculty, staff, prospective students, and alumni. Click here to follow and stay connected.