



Message from the Dean

Dear Perry Honors College Students,

Welcome back! We hope each of you have been able to make the most of your time away from ODU. We are excited to begin a new semester with you. This weekly newsletter, The Perry Post, will be sent on Mondays, and will keep you informed about PHC events, programming, deadlines, and opportunities to get involved. We encourage you to review each issue to stay connected and engaged.

We are pleased to welcome six new staff members to the Perry Honors College, bringing our team to nine dedicated professionals committed to supporting your success. Please take a moment to review their bios below and get to know your PHC Success Team. The photo above features the Cybersecurity Lounge (Monarch Hall Room 1113A) to which PHC students now have access. Feel free to come study and connect with your PHC peers in this space.

I hope you will join me for **Donuts with the Dean on Tuesday, January 28, from 7:30–8:30 a.m. in Virginia House.** I look forward to connecting with you, hearing your thoughts, and starting the semester together. As always, feel free to reach out to our office with questions, needs, or just to share a milestone; please know that we are here to support you.

Dr. Zaryab Iqbal
Dean, Perry Honors College



PHC Programs + Partnerships

University of Michigan Summer Research Experience

**Explore summer research
beyond ODU!**

January 21st 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Kaufman Hall, Room 224

Donuts with the Dean Grab a donut, meet the Dean, and connect with the PHC team.

January 28th 7:30am - 8:30am
Virginia House

41st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance

Reflect. Celebrate. Be Inspired.

January 29th 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Chartway Arena, Big Blue Room

Your Perry Honors College Success Team

Dr. David Gauthier



As Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Gauthier will coordinate Honors undergraduate research, scholarships, and student success initiatives. His research involves animal disease ecology in both aquatic and terrestrial systems. Fun fact: He is a member of the ODU Tick Research Team, which examines questions of ticks and diseases.

Dr. Sampath Jayarathna



As Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Dr. Jayarathna will lead engagement initiatives for honors students, including orientation events and peer mentoring. Fun fact: He directs the Neuro-Information Retrieval and Data Science Lab at ODU, focused on eye tracking, human-computer interaction, extended reality (XR), and egocentric systems.

John Foust



As Executive Assistant to the Dean, John looks forward to supporting each of you on your academic journey and collaborating with the ODU community to find new ways to enhance the student experience. Fun fact: He previously worked on ODU's first official podcast, "Monarch Minutes" (2024-2025).

Emily Harmon



As Coordinator for Outreach and Admissions, Emily will recruit and engage with prospective PHC students to highlight the College experience, and help them envision a successful Honors experience. Fun fact: Emily is a disability advocate, passionate about creating equitable experiences for all due to her own experiences with hearing loss.

Terrance Maynard



As Coordinator for Student Programs, Terrance will create engaging experiences that empower students, drawing on his background in student-centered programming and his understanding of diverse perspectives. Fun fact: He's a fraternal twin from a family with six pairs of twins on his maternal side!

Dr. Velur Vedvikash



As Student Success Coordinator, Ved, who supports Honors students through advising, honors pathway alignment, and research and experiential learning guidance, with a passion for interdisciplinary thinking, global perspectives, and meaningful research and service. Fun fact: Ved is multi-lingual and loves cooking.

Erin Suit



As Coordinator for Academic Services, Erin provides personalized guidance to help Honors students navigate University system and achieve academic success. Fun fact: She loves visiting Colonial Williamsburg, exploring Revolutionary history, and capturing it through photography.