



FALL SEMESTER

In a few weeks, Thanksgiving awaits. Take some time to give yourself a pat on the back as you continue through the semester. You're making strides, and the world is better for it. Within this issue you will find pictures from the Graduate Alumni Homecoming Reception, a graduate student interview, multiple announcements, and growth opportunities. Let us know your thoughts! -Xavier-Lewis Palmer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pg 1 Graduate Alumni Homecoming Reception	Pg 5 Va Sea Grant Symposium
Pg 2 Reshad UI Hoque	Pg 6 CHIP: Intro to ePortfolio
Pg 3 G.R.A.D. Announcement	Pg 6 Virginia Graduate Student Association Meeting
Pg 3 GSAP Announcement	Pg 7 Let's Talk Grad Life
Pg 4 Study Abroad Pres.	Pg 8 3MT Reminder
Pg 5 President's Lecture Series: Travis Mills	Pg 8 unWINEd
	Pg 8 About

GREAT TIMES AT THE GRADUATE ALUMNI HOMECOMING RECEPTION



THE HOMECOMING GRADUATE ALUMNI RECEPTION WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2019 AT THE BARRY ART MUSEUM. ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDENTS WERE TREATED TO LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD, COMPANY, AND A WONDERFUL KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY ALUMNUS AND NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED YOUNG ADULT WRITER AND AUTHOR, LAMAR GILES, 01', 17' MFA. HIS FORTHCOMING NOVEL IS NOT SO PURE AND SIMPLE.



PICTURES ARE COURTESY OF THE OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND GRADUATE SCHOOL [odu.edu/graduateschool](http://odu.edu/graduateschool)

## RESHAD UL HOQUE (PH.D. ENGINEERING - ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING)



Reshad Ul Hoque is a graduate summer award recipient, originally from Bangladesh, pursuing a Ph.D. in Engineering with a concentration in Electrical & Computer Engineering, here at Old Dominion University. His work touches on a field that is set to revolutionize much of modern communications and elevate the quality of work for a great many fields. Below you'll find a lightly edited transcript of an interview taken earlier in the semester. We encourage all graduate students to consider the Graduate Student Award Program to enhance their learning while pursuing their area of study. Let us know your thoughts, and if you are interested in sharing your experiences and perspective on your field via an interview.

### **What encouraged you to pursue a graduate education?**

My passion for graduate study came from my family. Both of my parents graduated from a reputed university. This encouraged me to pursue a graduate education.

### **What motivated you to seek a mentor? What were your objectives?**

I have had a long-cherished desire to work in Natural Language Processing (NLP) and with a hands-on project to learn this domain. I chose Dr. Wu as he has experience in NLP.

### **What have you gained so far in your work together? What have you learned about yourself professionally/academically?**

I learned a lot through this project. Academically, I have gained substantial amount of in-depth knowledge of NLP, and the work experience of NLP will help me to get an internship, which is a must for industry work.

**What recommendations do you have for people seeking a mentor?** I think people should know their goal, first. Based on that goal, they should then seek their mentors.

### **Describe your research.**

My research is in deep learning and machine learning on computer vision and the NLP domain.

### **If you were given additional money for funding, what would you research and how?**

I will do further hone my focus on NLP and try to make a bridge between NLP and computer vision through deep learning.

### **What are your long range and short range goals and objectives, when and why did you establish these goals and how are you preparing yourself to achieve them?**

My long-term goal is to enhance my research and publish more papers so that I can get a great job in industry. Additionally, I need to find an internship. Now I am trying to publish more papers and practice different algorithms for deep learning.

### **What do you like most about your research or feel will be its largest implication(s).**

Right now, I am working in two domains. In the computer vision domain, our work is to detect seagrass, which very important for the marine ecosystem. In NLP, to detect fake scientific news detection, which may make a broad impact on society.

### **Tell us about your vision of the field: where do you think the field is headed in the next five years?**

AI or deep learning will dominate the future.

### **What changes would you make in your college or university if you could? Why?**

[I would] hire more AI and deep learning professors and build additional labs.

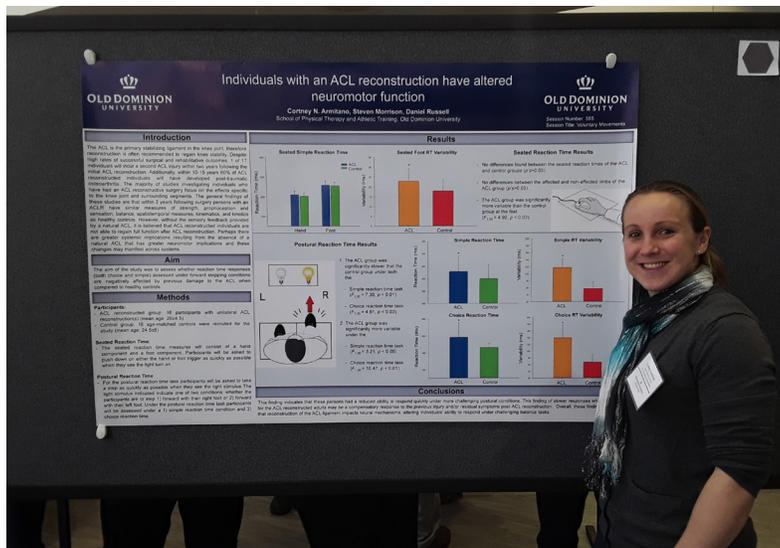
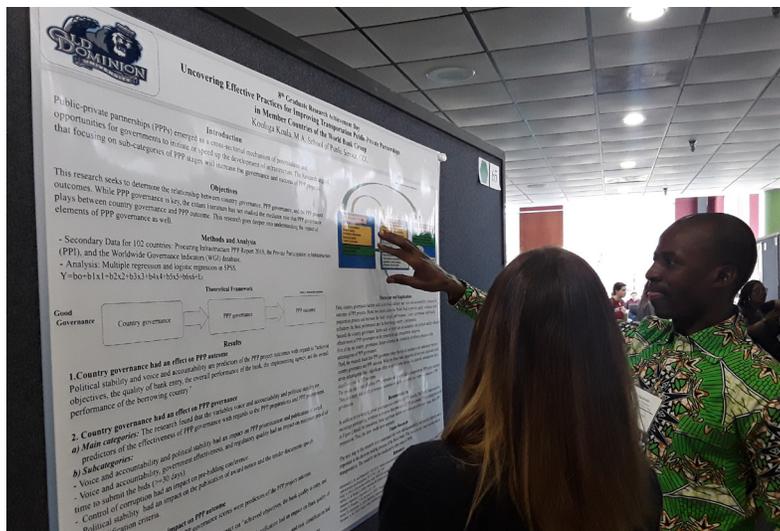
**What's one of your areas of research?** [One of them is] towards Detection of Fake Scientific News. The phenomenon of spreading scientific misinformation to the public is not new. The gap between public opinions and the scientific consensus on topics such as vaccine safety, evolution, or climate change have existed for a long time. Nowadays, people are more strongly connected through social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Statistics indicate that 62% of U.S. adults get news on the social media in 2016 as opposed to only 49% in 2012. Through the widespread social media and mobile devices, it is easier to spread fabricated and misleading news and articles, which may cause illusion, confusion, and even violence. The ultimate goal [of this project] is to build a mobile app that tells the credibility of scientific news posted on social media. To do so, we divided our goal into sub-goals. First, we need to extract the domain keywords from the scientific news article and then use those keywords to search the relevant scholarly papers. Secondly, we compare the claims of the science articles with the retrieved scholarly paper and get the score, which indicates the credibility of that scientific news articles. This summer, we accomplished the first subgoal and submitted our work to a conference (K-CAP).

# GRADUATE RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT DAY

The Graduate School will be hosting the eighth annual Graduate Research Achievement Day (GRAD) on Thursday, April 9, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Webb University Center. GRAD is a great opportunity for students to showcase their research for the campus community while networking with other students and learning about the great diversity of research and scholarship at Old Dominion University.

Students interested in participating must submit a poster proposal that consists of the graduate student's name, any co-authors, a project title, and a 300-word maximum abstract. The proposal must be submitted no later than Friday, February 7, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. to <https://bit.ly/2mfNn92>. Proposals that do not follow the formatting requirements or are submitted late run the risk of not being accepted.

Students in disciplines that do not normally undertake poster presentations and who would like to participate may contact Mr. Xavier-Lewis Palmer, Graduate Administrative Assistant for the Graduate School, for assistance at [xpalmer@odu.edu](mailto:xpalmer@odu.edu). Distance students are also welcome to submit proposals. Please note, that while faculty advisors, undergraduates, or other non-graduate students may be co-authors of proposals, they cannot be first authors or present the poster at the event.



## 3RD ANNUAL GRADUATE SUMMER AWARD PROGRAM

Old Dominion University's Graduate School in partnership with the Office of Research is pleased to announce the return of the Graduate Summer Award Program (GSAP). Open to graduate students from across the University, the GSAP is a competitive program that supports a range of original graduate student scholarship, including basic research, field study, data analysis, performances and exhibitions, and community-based learning initiatives. The program can be used to support thesis or dissertation projects or other capstone projects at the master's or doctoral level. The scope of the proposed project should allow the graduate student to produce a measurable research or scholarly product by the end of a minimum of six uninterrupted weeks during the summer months.

Graduate students wishing to apply for this award must identify and approach a faculty member to serve as a mentor during the tenure of the program award. The faculty member may advise the student in creating a strong project proposal, explain the expectations for scholarly activity, supervise the scholarly activity, and provide advice from the proposal stage to the completion of the final report. However, the faculty member is not permitted to produce work on behalf of the student. Students applying for the award will be the primary investigators for these projects. It is expected that a graduate student with this funding will produce a work with original scholarship. The award is not for lab assistant or graduate assistant duties that support a faculty project.

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# **Un-Silencing the Holocaust Past Via Study Abroad to Poland**

**November 6, 2019 / 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Darden College of Education Building**

**Multipurpose Room, 1106**

**Presented By:**

**Dr. Annette Finley-Croswhite (History)  
Dr. Thomas Chapman (Geography), and  
Their 2019 Study Abroad Students**

**Sponsored By:**

**The Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Understanding, Office of  
Academic Affairs, College of Arts & Letters, Center for Faculty  
Development and Office of Study Abroad**

# SEA GRANT VIRGINIA : GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM 2020



**SAVE UP TO \$75 - REGISTER BEFORE NOV. 15**

GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM  
**2020**

**Not Your Average  
Symposium...**

FEBRUARY 27-28, 2020  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

[SYMPOSIUM.VASEAGRANT.ORG](http://SYMPOSIUM.VASEAGRANT.ORG)

## PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES: TRAVIS MILLS

**PRESIDENT'S  
LECTURE SERIES**

FALL 2019

**YOU'RE INVITED**

Please join us for the award-winning President's Lecture Series at Old Dominion University. The lecture series features renowned speakers who share their knowledge, experiences, opinions and accomplishments. Past speakers have included scientists, writers, educators, historians, business innovators, Pulitzer Prize winners and other prominent figures.

For more information, please visit [odu.edu/univevents](http://odu.edu/univevents)



**President's Task Force on Inclusive  
Excellence Speaker**

**Travis Mills**

Retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant  
and Recalibrated Warrior

**November 19, 2019**

Chartway Arena at the Ted Constant Convocation Center | 7:00 p.m.

Retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills of the 82nd Airborne is a "Recalibrated Warrior" and international advocate for veterans and amputees. He is one of only five servicemen from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to survive his injuries as a quadruple amputee.

In April of 2012, an IED explosion cost Mills portions of both legs and arms. Seventeen months later, he founded the Travis Mills Foundation, a nonprofit organization that benefits and assists wounded and injured veterans.

Mills' story inspired the documentary "Travis: A Soldier's Story," which played in theaters nationwide. It also has been featured on local and national news, including Fox News, CNN and "The Ellen DeGeneres Show." Mills' story is being adapted into a major motion picture directed by Sylvester Stallone and starring Stallone and Adam Driver.

All lectures are free and open to the public. Seating is limited, guests are encouraged to RSVP at [odu.imodules.com/TML19](http://odu.imodules.com/TML19).

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## INTRO TO EPORTFOLIO



Calling all ODU Faculty, Staff & Students: Please join the President's Task Force on Inclusive Excellence and the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity

**Thursday, November 14**  
**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**Big Blue Room, Ted Constant**  
**Convocation Center**  
**at Chartway Arena**  
Lunch available at 11:30 a.m.

# commUNITY

Building an inclusive commUNITY one conversation at a time

Join the conversation to discuss Bias and Bigotry faced by our Monarch Military Community. We need your voice!

RSVP by November 1st at [odu.imodules.com/commUNITY](http://odu.imodules.com/commUNITY)

Questions?  
Please call:  
757-683-3141

## VIRGINIA GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEETING AND CALL FOR LEADERSHIP

James Madison University hosted a successful gathering of leaders from the Virginia Graduate Student Associations (GSA), including attendees from George Mason, James Madison University, Longwood, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, and William & Mary. Each GSA helps to shape their school's graduate school policies, and together, they help to share best practices when each GSA meets. Pictured below are the attendees (GMU) Natalie Gelbvaks; (JMU) Michael Facey, Christine Verdream, Collin Ashley, and Janelle Fernandez; (W&M) Nick Belluzzo, Richard Reksoatmodjo, Casey McLaughlin, Jessica Burns, Ryan Chaban, Holly Gruntner, and Tomas Evans; (Longwood) Morgan Cassidy, Marie Danner, Emory Reed, and Eric Petrides; (VCU) David Hampton and Sarah Saunders; (NSU) Dañetta Evans and Devonna King; (VT) Hani Awni, Alexis Hruby, Courtney Steele, Sharon Stidham, and Maruf Hoque, Martina Svyantek; (ODU) Lucas Potter, Ali A. Huazy, and Danielle Winters; (VSU) Stephanie Davis, Nneka Osiah, and Cheryl Adeyemi; and (UVA) Paul Zivick. If you are interested in joining Old Dominion University's Graduate Student Association as it is reorganized, please contact the Graduate School's Graduate Administrative Assistant, Xavier Palmer at [xpalmer@odu.edu](mailto:xpalmer@odu.edu).



GSA Attendees - Photo courtest of JMU

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# LET'S TALK GRAD LIFE



## HELPING GRADUATE STUDENTS MASTER THE BALANCING ACT

Time: 5:30PM – 7:00PM  
Location: 2100 Monarch Hall  
Use the links to RSVP!

Snacks will be provided!  
RSVPs limited to 32 students per session.

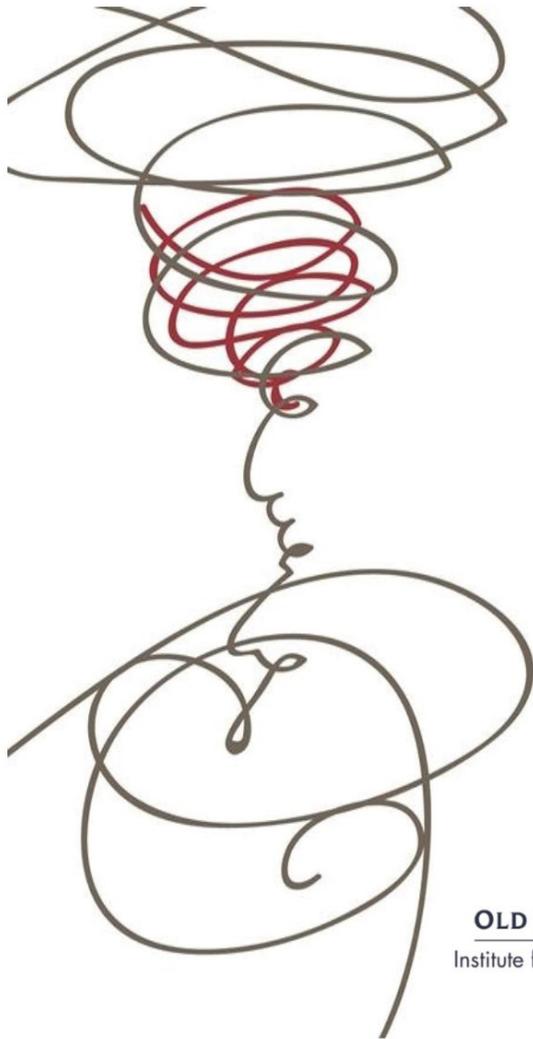
- October 16th – Introducing Self-Care  
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkSelfCare>
- October 23rd – Identifying & Managing Life's Stressors  
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkStressors>
- October 30th – Handling Relationships with Family, Friends, & Faculty  
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkRelationships>
- November 6th – Resolving Conflicts in their Various Forms  
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkConflicts>
- November 13th – Financial Management when You're Broke  
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkFinances>
- November 20th – Affordable Healthy Living  
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkHealthyLiving>

## 3MT REMINDER

Please save the date for this fall's 3MT Competition. The 3MT Finals will occur on Thursday, November 21, 2019, from 5 – 8 p.m. in the University Theatre (5 p.m. reception; 6 p.m. competition start). An audience RSVP will be sent out in October. Prize money and the opportunity to represent ODU at a regional conference are at stake! Practices and trainings are underway to prepare student competitors.



## NETWORKING EVENT FOR ENTREPRENEURS: UNWINED



*Bringing innovators, thought-leaders, and entrepreneurs together*

# unWINEd

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

*special location!*

The Forrest Gallery Studio of Fine Photography

5473 Shore Dr.,

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

RSVP: [november\\_unwined.eventbrite.com](http://november_unwined.eventbrite.com)



## ABOUT

Find Graduate School News Online at: [www.odu.edu/graduateschool](http://www.odu.edu/graduateschool), as well as updates on our Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter pages.

ODU doctoral student, Xavier-Lewis Palmer, compiled and edited this newsletter with help from Dr. Robert Wojtowicz, Dr. Bryan Porter, Missy Barber, Genieve Conwell, and Courtney Nishnick in the Graduate School.

If you have an idea, event, news, or anything otherwise notable that you would like to share, contact Xavier-Lewis at [xpalmer@odu.edu](mailto:xpalmer@odu.edu).



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