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Old Dominion University

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monarchextra

Vol. 2 No. 2
October 2018

STORM STORIES

Photo: Shara Weber



From hurricanes to Heinicke

Hampton Roads and Old Dominion University eluded the destruction that Hurricanes Florence and Michael wrought on other parts of the East Coast. But some of our alumni, employees and their relatives have been less fortunate in other hurricanes.

Our cover story recounts the experiences of four people, with results ranging from rebirth to tragedy.

This issue of Monarch Extra covers other serious topics, including a Q&A on sexual harassment and a retrospective on a beloved professor who died too soon, Steve Yetiv. What distinguishes the Q&A from the reams of other articles on the subject is the practical advice our experts provide on what to do if you experience or witness sexual harassment.

Of course, we relive the Monarchs' sweet victory over Virginia Tech on the football field. On the lighter side, we profile one of the campus' most beloved non-human personalities, Albert the Turtle, and showcase the hobbies of two employees and the positive influence on their work lives.

We also feature "Miss Ruby" Milteer, who recently celebrated her 50th anniversary at Old Dominion, and Taylor Heinicke, who has a new QB job with the NFL. And we recall a free-speech controversy on campus 50 years ago that had the governor of Virginia steaming and the faculty of Old Dominion in an uproar.

Please take advantage of the interactive features throughout the magazine, starting with the hurricane article. I hope they enhance your reading experience.

You can scroll from page to page using either the arrows on your screen or on your keyboard. Look for the magnifying glasses on the bottom of the screen if you want to enlarge or reduce the print size.

As usual, don't hesitate to send me your suggestions and reactions, positive and not so positive. Thanks for reading.

Phil Walzer
Monarch Magazine and
University Editor



Chris Norton and Luke Stone undo the plywood scaffolding to install "Dove," a 900-pound sculpture designed by Czech artist Stanislav Libenský, in the Barry Art Museum. "I think it will be one of the stars of our collection," said Jutta-Annette Page, executive director of the museum. Read more about the museum and its collection in the winter issue of Monarch magazine.

Photos by Vicki Cronis-Nohe

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Monarch Extra
Old Dominion University
Vol. 2, No. 2

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AFTER THE HURRICANE

Upheaval and Renewal

By Philip Walzer

Starting over with new home and career

DURING HURRICANE IRMA IN 2017, Amanda Rivera “could actually see the glass bending out” from the windows of her ninth-floor apartment in Old San Juan, said her sister Giovanna Genard, the assistant vice president for strategic communication and marketing at ODU. It didn’t break, but Rivera’s apartment later flooded.

She knew she couldn’t stay there when Maria came. So Rivera and her husband, along with her father, encamped at the house of another sister, Cara Elisa Rivera.

After strong winds tore the roof off Cara’s family room, they huddled on the floor of a first-story bedroom and prayed for most of the first day. For Genard, the worry stretched far longer, with communication to the island cut off. She found out three days after the storm hit that



Giovanna Genard (left) and her sister Amanda Rivera

everyone was OK. But not entirely.

Worried about the well-being of her father, Juan Rivera, Genard

found him a flight to Orlando a week after Maria. He later joined his wife, Ilka, who was with four other daughters in California.

Genard’s parents returned to Puerto Rico in mid-February 2018 after water and electricity were restored. Her father had lost 30 pounds and was overwhelmed with anxiety. A doctor diagnosed him with PTSD, but he is “much, much better now,” Genard said.

Amanda and her husband, Jasen Colón, had to find new jobs. The Mercedes dealership where Amanda worked was severely damaged, and buying a car became a low priority for Puerto Ricans.

Though they loved Puerto Rico, the Colóns moved to Hampton Roads in October, finding work at local dealerships. But in July Amanda quit to focus on her dream of designing jewelry. She realized, Genard said, that “life was too short.”

Takeaways: Maria elevated the resilience of relatives and other Puerto Ricans, Genard said.

Amanda waited in line for seven hours for fuel. Cara’s husband, Josué, siphoned gas with his mouth to help a neighbor fuel a generator. Families cooked what food they had – plantains, rice, meat – on a grill and shared a collective meal. But desperation led others to less charitable actions – siphoning gas from cars and looting homes, including apartments in Amanda’s building.

Her family’s experience shaped Genard’s approach to Florence.

She stayed at a hotel near ODU to help coordinate updates. Among other items, she brought a plastic tarp, life vest, battery-powered LED lanterns, duct tape, cans of tuna and chicken and several gallons of water. “I wanted to be self-reliant and able to help others,” she said.

‘A broken man’ whose world crumbled

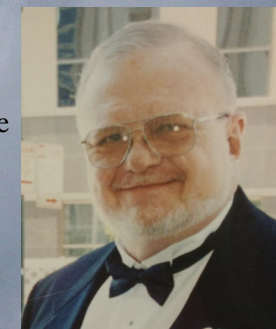
JOSHUA BEHR works as a research associate professor with ODU’s Virginia Modeling, Analysis & Simulation Center. He focuses on preparing for and recovering from severe storms.

The subject has painful relevance for Behr. Maybe the cause wasn’t direct and the effect wasn’t immediate, but Behr believes Hurricane Katrina killed his father-in-law in Louisiana.

“His world fell apart,” Behr said. “He was a broken man. Everything he believed was shaken to the core.”

Richard Steiner was a lawyer and temporary judge – “a self-made man who was very sure of himself,” Behr said. “He knew how to get things done. He was part of the old boys’ network for decades.”

Steiner’s wife left for Hampton Roads before the hurricane, but he stayed, saying, “I’ve been through this my whole life.” Their house didn’t flood, but with com-



Richard Steiner



munications knocked out, his relatives couldn’t reach him for weeks.

The first update came from a farmer south of Baton Rouge. He had found Steiner, who had diabetes, wandering the parking lot of a Walmart, filthy, disheveled and dazed. Steiner had been driving his Jeep, hooked to a travel trailer loaded with garage tools.

The farmer towed the trailer to his farmhouse, where Steiner stayed for about three months. “We had conversations with him, but he was mostly out of it,” Behr said.

Eventually, Steiner’s wife returned, and they moved back to their house in Gretna, a suburb of New Orleans. “Some days he was more lucid,” Behr said, but his mobility and cognitive functions worsened. He spent his last couple of years bedridden and died in 2012.

Cases such as Steiner’s “are not captured in many of the ‘official’ Katrina stories,” Behr said. “But we know that our family story is far from unique.”

Takeaways: Behr said the tragedy “intensely shaped” how he approaches the modeling of hurricane recovery in Hampton Roads.

“We are taught that you’re supposed to start with broad theory and develop specific hypotheses that you want to test. That’s the official line. The reality is, we also draw upon our real-life experiences and anecdotal information.”

He’s also learned that “very few things are textbook black and white. This is even more true in research.”

Listen to Behr on the Virginia public radio program “With Good Reason” at <https://www.withgoodreasonradio.org/episode/free-the-beaches/>

She found a new job and a new focus

ANGELA EAST KEAN '96 MOVED to Saint Croix in the Virgin Islands 11 days after she graduated, thinking it would be a short-term adventure. She never left. Kean has worked as a director of an investment banking firm, controller of the company that produces Cruzan Rum and director of a physical therapy clinic.

Hurricane Irma delivered a glancing blow to the island. Then came Maria. The storm lingered over St. Croix for eight hours, devastating the island. But "I can't complain," she said. "People lost everything. Some still don't have roofs. We're a lot better off."

She and her family boarded up the windows of the bottom floor of their condo and stayed with friends on the east end of the island. During the most intense part of the storm, they couldn't get the front door there to latch, "and it slammed open and shut for a good six hours." They didn't return to their condo until a month and a half later, when power was restored.

The physical therapy clinic closed, leaving Kean without a job. She volunteered with the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Man-



agement Agency.

"It's very different from Florida or Texas. It could be months before resources flow in. You have to envision everything being inaccessible. There were power lines on the road. All the cash you have was what you had before the storm. The landscape is unrecognizable. Everything on the ground looked brown because it was burnt from the intensity of the wind."

Takeaways: "This experience makes you realize how much you take for granted, the simple flip of a light switch or turning on

running water." And the importance of community.

"There was no one to turn to except for each other. The citizens were the ones who cleared the road so people could get through."

While she volunteered with VITEMA, she met the owner of Gallows Bay Hardware. "I was moved by her resilience. Two days after the storm, they were open for business to help people, even though the phones and computers weren't working."

Kean joined the hardware store as operations manager in November. "Now I'm dedicating my life to preparing for storms and surviving storms."

Recovering 'poco a poco'

JEANNE WALKER SINCLAIR '98 is a former member and assistant coach of Old Dominion's sailing team. Since 2007, she has lived in Rincon on Puerto Rico's west coast: "It's a little pocket of paradise. It has 15,000 people. There are only stop signs and yield signs. People still ride horses in town."

She owns Rincon Sailing, which provides lessons, tours and camps to locals and tourists. The boats were carefully secured and escaped

damage from Hurricane Maria last year. But her family's house was flooded, ruining much of the furniture.

Rincon Sailing took a big hit because people "were in survival mode, not thinking about sailing," after the hurricane, she said. Sinclair and her husband have dipped heavily into savings to get by.

They didn't replace their three employees, who left Puerto Rico after Maria, and they've downsized their fleet from 25 to 17 boats. "We're getting rid of the equipment we're not using to be more agile," she said.

They're focusing more on lessons, but they recently started a side venture, Island Leisure Project, to offer personalized sailing vacations in the Caribbean.

"The business is evolving. I had thought we would be doing one trip a month, but Maria put a hold on that. A lot of people are really excited to do something with us in 2019."

Takeaways: "Electricity is a luxury. What's most important – food, water, shelter and cash. Nothing prepares you for weeks of being out of communication with family."

After the storm, "there were long lines everywhere," she said. "Banking or getting fuel took hours. Most of the purchases were cash-only. Food and water were sparse." But

"everybody helped each other – clearing up debris, sharing food or fuel, or just being there for one another."

They moved to Connecticut for three months while the island was rebuilding. Next time, they'll leave only if their lives are at stake. "Leaving slowed our personal recovery timeline," she said.

"Many on the island say, 'poco a poco,' little by little, and that's what we're doing. We're moving forward with our business plans and raising our family here. We'll just ride it out and see how it goes."



SEXUAL HARASSMENT

HOW TO STOP IT, HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

By Philip Walzer

Victim

violence

BULLY

Inappropriate

CRIME

PRESSURE

WORKPLACE

With sexual harassment and assault continuing to make headlines, Monarch Extra gathered four experts on the subject for a candid talk: **Ellen Neufeldt**, vice president for student engagement and enrollment services; **Traci Daniels**, special assistant to Neufeldt; **ReNée S. Dunman**, assistant vice president for institutional equity and diversity, and **Wendi White**, a consultant to the Women's Center and former violence prevention specialist at ODU.



NEUFELDT



DANIELS



WHITE



DUNMAN

Does the avalanche of revelations surprise you?

White: Not in the least. When you work in the field of sexual violence prevention and response, you become a magnet for disclosures. The stories roll out. I see how absolutely prevalent and endemic this is in our society.

How do we raise our children so they never think this is acceptable behavior? Is it too late to change their attitudes by the time they get to ODU?

Daniels: I don't think it's too late. The key is engaging our student leaders who are already in a position to try to effectuate attitudes, like, "Hey, it's uncool of you to try to take advantage of her." Or "It's not a good look."

White: Young girls' voices need to be valued. They have to feel empowered to set their boundaries. It would be so helpful if the students who come to us had been getting these messages in an age-appropriate way from the very start of their education.

Neufeldt: We can't control what students have been exposed to before they get here, but we can make an impact at the college level. We didn't have a bystander intervention campaign 20 years ago. These movements that we're seeing in society can give a whole new impetus to the strong education we've been doing on this.

What is Old Dominion's most effective program?

White: We use the national Green Dot program, which has been validated by the CDC to reduce violence by up to 50 percent after four years. It teaches bystander intervention skills – how do you step in, the types of strategies you can use. It creates relationships – because peers have the most influence

with peers. If you feel your teammates don't have your back for saying something, you're not going to say it. It also works with faculty, staff and leaders to create a bottom-up and top-down strategy for change.

What should people do when they see someone being harassed in a restaurant or bar?

White: You can be direct or you can delegate or you can distract. If you feel comfortable and you know everybody who's involved, you can step in and just say, "Is everyone having a good time?"

If it feels threatening, you probably don't want to choose the direct approach. So you can delegate. Maybe find the friends of the person being targeted or someone in a position of authority – the bartender, the RA.

If you really don't want anyone to know it's you, you can slip someone an anonymous note or provide a distraction. You can shout, "Hey, there's free pizza in the other room" or "Is that your car being towed outside?" Anything to interrupt the momentum.

Neufeldt: The Green Dot program gives college students lifetime tools. Maybe it's not wise of me to yell "Stop" to someone I don't know who might overpower me. But I can get involved in other ways.

What advice would you give a graduate who faces sexual harassment in the workplace?

Dunman: Ignoring it will not make it go away. If you feel comfortable, it's important to let the harasser know that, whatever the behavior is, it's not welcome. All incidents need to be documented with as much detail as possible. This could include naming an eyewitness or someone who observed your demeanor.

Neufeldt: I don't think there's a one-size-fits-all answer. One way is to say, "Don't do that anymore." Maybe I try to find a coalition of folks that can help me influence the person's behavior or maybe I have a friend that can help circumvent that. Yes, you can report this. But sometimes employees may not feel comfortable reporting incidents.

White: If you're not comfortable going to HR or your supervisor, go to the YWCA or a similar agency. They also may be able to connect you with pro bono help.

Neufeldt: I think even before that, look at the culture of where you're thinking of going to work. Are they known for empowering employees?

Daniels: When you go for an interview, are they asking inappropriate questions? Are they talking more about my personality than what I can do with the position?

What are the misconceptions about filing a sexual harassment complaint?

Dunman: The biggest one is that it will automatically result in retaliation. Most employers welcome the opportunity to address these behaviors. They are not in line with their core values and jeopardize the bottom line. Retaliation can happen, but the victim can follow up with a claim of retaliation. Even if a sexual harassment claim does not prevail, sometimes a claim of retaliation will.

The #metoo movement has faced a backlash from some who say too many men are being unfairly targeted. Are there lessons to be learned here in how to address sexual harassment and assault?

White: You have to communicate

clearly and listen actively. We tell students, the safest way to know you have someone's consent is to ask them and to hear an enthusiastic yes.

I've heard people say now they're afraid to even compliment someone on a haircut. Can you suggest some ground rules for the workplace?

Daniels: Begin with compliments about their ideas and work-related contributions. Those are the compliments that I, as a woman, most value. Once you have established a trusting and professional rapport, they'll be more likely to welcome the other well-intended compliments.

Fast-forward to the next generation of students. Will they live in a world where sexual harassment and assault are far less likely?

White: We have to remove the barriers that make it more difficult for women to move up in the workplace. When we have an environment where people are more fundamentally equal, there will be less sexual violence and harassment.

RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS

IN THE COMMUNITY:

YWCA South Hampton Roads and H.E.R. Shelter hotline, 757-251-0144
National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline, 1-800-656-HOPE
Call your local police department

ON CAMPUS:

Counseling Services, 757-683-4401
Women's Center, 757-683-4109
Police Department, 757-683-4000
Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, 757-683-3141

THE MAGNIFICENT TALE OF ALBERT THE TURTLE

By Philip Walzer



This is the story of a fearless turtle named Albert who found a home at a big university and made a lot of friends who built him an even nicer home. One of them even started a Facebook page for him.

Albert has been at Old Dominion University at least since 2014. Nobody knows how he got there. One day, he was discovered sitting on a floating duck blind in the pond outside Gornto Hall near 43rd Street.

That made the people who work in Gornto very happy. “We have a lot of animal lovers in the building,” said Kimberley Williams (M.P.A. '17), who is the assistant to the associate vice president for distance learning.

They weren't sure at first what to call him.

The people who worked on the fourth floor thought his name should be Albert in honor of Albert Gornto Jr., the man whom the building was named for. *That* Albert graduated from Old Dominion and was a member of the important Board of Visitors.

But everyone on the second floor thought he looked like a Doug. So they compromised. His full name is Albert Doug Turtle.

All of the attention Albert has received has coaxed him out of his shell, so to speak.

Before, “we couldn't linger long watching him from the bridge because he would get nervous and scoot back into the water quickly,” said one of his closest friends, Jenny McConnell, a multimedia designer in distance learning. “But over the years, he has turned into quite the social butterfly. He continues sunning himself even as people stop to watch him.”

Andy Casiello, the associate vice president for distance learning, said: “He holds his head very high now.”

A sad thing happened in 2016. The duck blind sank into the water after a big storm.

This made Albert's life difficult. A turtle can live in the water. But it needs to get out in the sun to dry its shell and to stock up on Vitamin D.

“Albert was swimming and swimming and swimming,” Jenny said. “He didn't have anywhere to go because of the way the pond was shaped. Everybody was worried about him.”

'QUITE THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY'

Photos: Shara Weber

'HE'S VERY GOOD IN SHARING SPACE'

Jenny enjoys making things with wood. So she built a temporary platform for Albert. But turtles are just like humans. They deserve special places to live. Heidi Morris '99, the online content coordinator for distance learning, contacted Chad Peevy '99 (M.P.A. '17), the grounds supervisor in the facilities management department. She thought maybe he could help. Chad asked Howard Wyle, the equipment repair technician at the University, to design a home for Albert. Howard was happy to do it. He's a great woodworker and he loves animals.

"Whenever there's an injured animal on campus, they come and get me," Howard said. "They call me Dr. Dolittle."

In the summer of 2017, Howard finished his creation. Andy said it was the "most upscale floating shelter" he had ever seen.

Albert's house weighs 150 pounds. It has a patio where Albert can sun himself. It also has ramps at both ends to help him get in and out of the water. The "house" part isn't for Albert – his shell is too big for him to get inside – but duck families sometimes use it.

Howard put the name of the house on it with big red letters: ODU Duck Inn. Howard chose it because it was the name of a famous Virginia Beach restaurant and because he expected lots of ducks and other animals to visit.

They have. Kimberley once saw a momma goose and five babies on the platform with Albert. "Most of the little goslings jumped around him," she said, but one walked right on top of him. Albert didn't mind.

"He's very good in sharing space," Andy said.

Albert's house has also caught the attention of humans.

Some campus tours stop there to point out Albert and his house. Sometimes, when important people are taken around campus, they seem more interested in Albert and his house than the bigger, fancier buildings at Old Dominion.

Another sad thing happened the end of last year. Somebody overturned Albert's house and damaged it. Howard said he would fix it.

But you can't fix a turtle house overnight. So Chad's staff brought back Jenny's platform. Albert used it until May, when Howard finished the work on his house.

But Howard didn't just fix it. He made it even nicer.

He repainted the blue roof. He added a set of stairs on each side of the enclosure to make it easier for Albert's guests to get in and out. And so Albert wouldn't feel left out, Howard added the word "Albert's" in front of "ODU Duck Inn."

Howard was named Employee of the Month at Old Dominion in October 2017. "Everybody's life is full of stress," he said. "If they look at that and it brings a smile to their face, then it's all worth it."

Even people who don't go to ODU can see Albert. His Facebook page is www.facebook.com/ODUAlbert/.

Albert's friends in Gornto still have a lot of questions about him. Like: Is he lonely? A few times they've seen a second small turtle in the pond. But usually Albert's by himself.

Albert's OK, said Julie Levans. She's the senior curator of fishes at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center. "Turtles are not typically social animals," Julie said.

Jenny has done some research of her own about turtles. Based on his looks, she thinks Albert is a yellow-bellied slider.

She also learned something very surprising. Everyone in Gornto thought Albert was a male. But "Albert's tail is pretty short compared to his legs," she said, and male turtles usually have long tails.

That's true, Julie said. "In most turtle species, males have longer tails."

So maybe Albert is really Alberta.

#wildlifewednesdays

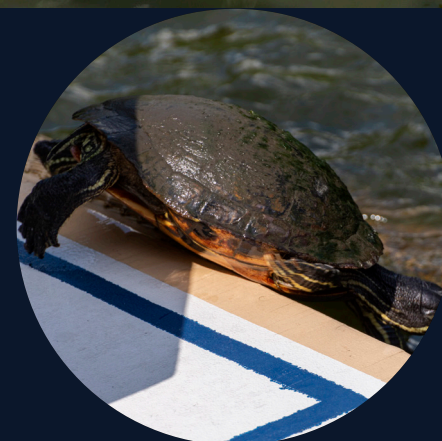
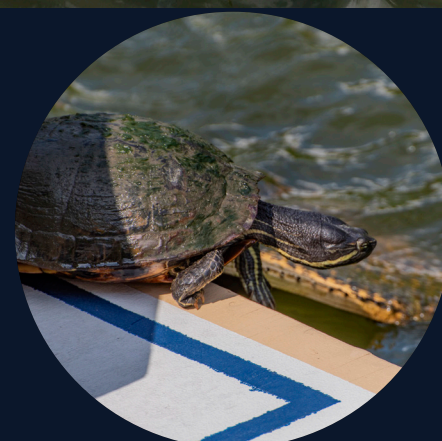
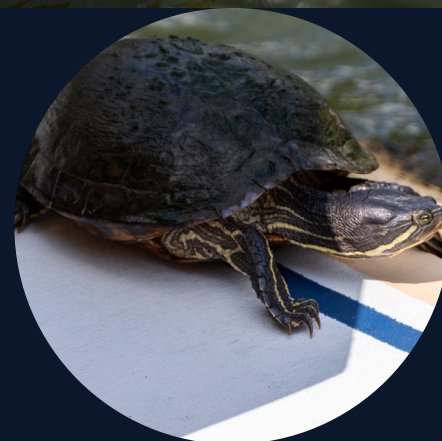
The Gornto pond isn't the only place with turtles on campus. They've also been spotted in the water next to Brock Commons and the science quad.

Kieran Rundle saw a few turtles when she was visiting Old Dominion as a high school student. "I thought, 'It smelled like the beach, there are turtles everywhere. I want to go here,'" she said.

Kieran now is a sophomore studying graphic design. And she's still into turtles.

She is one of the campus ambassadors who mentions Albert on her tours. Kieran also started a #wildlifewednesdays hashtag on the Admissions Office's Instagram account to feature animals on campus.

Albert's house weighs 150 lbs.



A 'truly amazing' victory HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

By Harry Minium '77

At game's end, Bobby Wilder found 400 text messages on his phone. He also had congratulatory voicemail messages from some of college football's top coaches.

That night, Old Dominion University was the second-highest trending topic on Twitter. Over the next few days, Old Dominion was mentioned more than 3,200 times on TV and radio.

All because of the biggest sports victory in the University's history – the 49-35 stunner, toppling

'I want you to be proud, but I want you to be humble,' Coach Bobby Wilder told the team after the win.



Virginia Tech, on Sept. 22.

No one expected that of a football team in just its 10th season.

Tech is a Power 5 school that has been to 25 consecutive bowl games, beaten archrival Virginia 14 times in a row and played for a national championship.

ODU was 0-3 and a 29-point underdog. The Monarchs were given only a 1.8 percent chance of upsetting the No. 13 Hokies. But quarterback Blake LaRussa came off the bench, threw for 495 yards and four touchdowns, and the miracle occurred at Foreman Field at S.B. Ballard Stadium.

Fans in the ODU record home crowd of 20,532 stood and cheered for 15 minutes after the game. Wilder, the head coach, and his players were joined by thousands of students at the 50-yard line.

In the locker room, Wilder told his players: "You just did something truly amazing. ... I want you to be proud, but I want you to be humble. This is a special moment in the history of Old Dominion."

ODU is now known as a giant killer, on the same level with Appalachian State, which upended Michigan in 2007.

Old Dominion grabbed headlines in The New York Times and Los Angeles Times. It was mentioned in online publications – and that doesn't even include bloggers or social media posts – more than 2,700 times.

The potential reach of all mentions of Old Dominion in the media from Sept. 21 through 28 was nearly 3 billion people, according to analytics used by the University's Strategic Communication and Marketing Department.

Wilder received phone calls from coaches such as Penn State's James Franklin, Michigan's Jim Harbaugh and Florida State's Willie Taggart.

Instead of immediately returning them, he did a national interview on ESPN Sirius XM. On Sunday, he did four interviews with out-of-town media, including NBC Sports Radio.

Later that week he did 13 more, speaking with Doug Gottlieb on Fox Sports Radio and on the Freddie and Fitz show on ESPN radio and appearing on College Football Live on ESPN.

"That whole place is going to explode because now everyone knows about Old Dominion," Barrett Sallee, a college football expert, said on the CBS Sports Radio Network.

Just how big an explosion ODU will experience remains to be seen.

Universities sometimes enjoy the "Flutie effect," with a burst of admissions applications after a strong athletic season or a championship victory. It's too early to say whether the Virginia Tech game will provide that bump at ODU.

But Jena Virga, who leads athletic fundraising for the Old Dominion Athletic Foundation, said she thinks the victory will help her team of fundraisers close in on several major donations to help pay for a \$65

million stadium renovation.

The day was an emotional rollercoaster for President John R. Broderick. He was in Connecticut for his father's funeral and then flew back to Norfolk, arriving at the game in the third quarter.

Afterward, he thanked the team for helping ease the grief that he and First Lady Kate Broderick were feeling.

The victory "was indicative of what we always thought could take place," said Broderick, who played a key role in launching football even before he became president.

"I know from time to time there are always going to be those who second-guess the decision to move up to Conference USA. But one of the goals for us was to try to compete at a higher level and not only compete, but compete successfully."

Broderick said he received "texts and messages by the hundreds, including some from people I hadn't heard from in years. They caught that moment and were happy for our success.

"We were happy to share it across the country and across the globe."

Read about quarterback Blake LaRussa at http://www.odusports.com/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=31100&ATCLID=211773182

Read more about the reactions of the players, Coach Bobby Wilder and President John R. Broderick at http://www.odusports.com/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=31100&ATCLID=211773088

**Check out
highlights of
the victory
against
Virginia Tech**



SECTIONS
105-104

For Heinicke, a 'pretty perfect' life as Cam's No. 2

By Rich Radford



The colors Taylor Heinicke wears to work – the blue, silver and black of the Carolina Panthers – bear remarkable resemblance to those he donned while flinging footballs for Old Dominion University.

His office – Bank of America Stadium – is a 5-minute walk from his fully furnished one-bedroom apartment in downtown Charlotte.

Life is good. Actually, a lot better than good.

“It’s pretty perfect,” said the Atlanta native who thrilled crowds at Foreman Field from 2011 to 2014.

Heinicke started the 2018 professional season on the 53-man active roster of an NFL team, and not just any team. The Panthers are perennial playoff contenders, and Charlotte is less than three hours from his hometown.

Heinicke nailed down the job as Carolina’s backup quarterback with his last pass of the preseason, a deftly thrown strike to Mose Frazier for a touchdown against the Pittsburgh Steelers. He zinged the ball to Frazier as if he were throwing one of his 132 collegiate touchdown passes.

“It felt like any one of those back shoulder passes I threw to Larry Pinkard or Blair Roberts or Antonio Vaughan or Zach Pascal,” Heinicke said, rattling off the names of ODU teammates past. “It felt great.”

When he learned two days later that he’d made the team, it was as if Heinicke had won Final Jeopardy by a dollar; that’s how close he felt he was to his competitor for the backup job, Garrett Gilbert.

Asked what traits won the job for Heinicke, Panthers head coach Ron Rivera quickly answered, “His athleticism and the ability to run pretty much everything we do. With Taylor, you’re not going to have to pare certain things down.”

So now Heinicke is No. 2 behind the only starting QB in the NFL who wears No. 1, Cam Newton. He is only a play away from taking charge on the field. The position has instilled a sense of maturity in him.

“I’m 25, and in my heart I feel like I’m still young,” said the 6-foot-1, 210-pounder. “But I remember that first time I walked into camp (with the Minnesota Vikings) and how I kept looking at fourth-year players like they were established veterans. I need to start feeling that way, and I think the fact that I’m officially the backup quarterback to start the year is helping me realize that.”

Minnesota, where Heinicke’s pro career began, seems so far off. Yet his successes in the Vikings system paved his way to Charlotte.

Norv Turner, who won two Super Bowl rings with the Dallas Cowboys in the 1990s, was the Vikings’ offensive coordinator, and his son Scott was quarterbacks coach. They took those same jobs in Carolina this year, and, at their urging, the Panthers signed Heinicke.

He’s been on four teams in less than four years.

He was released from the first, Minnesota, in September 2017 after reaching an injury settlement with the Vikings. Heinicke had missed an entire season after infamously severing a tendon when he tried to kick in a sliding glass door at his house after locking himself out.

He tried out for multiple practice squads last fall before the New England Patriots signed him four weeks into the season ... and abruptly released him two weeks into October.



For a while there, it looked like Heinicke might be heading back to Norfolk to complete his undergraduate studies. He is three classes shy of a math degree.

But days after Thanksgiving, he ended up in Houston.

The Texans had caught a horrible case of the midseason injury bug at QB.

Heinicke, however, wasn’t spared. In his lone regular season appearance before joining Carolina, he sustained a concussion when Pittsburgh cornerback Mike Hilton knocked him to the turf during a Christmas Day game.

The Texans released him in mid-April.

“When I was out of a job last year, those were tough months sitting around waiting for the phone to ring,” he said. “This time it wasn’t so bad. I was released on Friday and claimed off waivers on Monday.”

The arrow has pointed upward ever since.

Heinicke essentially serves as an insurance policy for one of the NFL’s most skilled and flamboyant quarterbacks, Cam Newton.

The guy who dresses like a haberdasher’s mannequin, always sporting the latest and greatest fashions (including the newest hats designed by milliner Alberto Hernandez).

The guy who won league MVP honors in 2015 when he led the Panthers to the Super Bowl.

Heinicke isn’t Cam and won’t pretend to be, not in fashion style or playing style.

“He’s truly a freak of nature,” Heinicke said. “We have a mini-basketball hoop in the locker room, and when we play H-O-R-S-E, he’ll say, ‘OK, for this next shot you have to put your right hand on this wall and shoot with your left.’ I’m trying desperately to make what seems like a 6-foot shot, left-handed. He’s still touching the wall and dunking the ball. It’s as if his wing span is 50 feet.”

Cam can do just about anything. But if there comes a point when he can’t?

“I’m one play away from going in and I know that,” Heinicke said. “I have the confidence now to get it done if it happens. I think every quarterback in the league has to have that confidence ... because in this league things happen.”

Rich Radford witnessed every one of Taylor Heinicke’s 132 touchdown passes at ODU while covering football for The Virginian-Pilot. These days, Radford is the web program manager at Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters.

14,959

Heinicke’s total passing yards at Old Dominion

DID YOU KNOW?

Three other Monarchs also are playing in the NFL: Rick Lovato ’15, long snapper for last year’s Super Bowl-winning Philadelphia Eagles; Rashaad Coward, an offensive tackle for the Chicago Bears, and Zach Pascal, a wide receiver for the Indianapolis Colts.

Why singing and Lego play *make them stronger at work* By Philip Walzer

Hobbies boost academic productivity, according to a recent article in Nature magazine. They offer much-needed R&R and can jump-start creativity. The article cited Jennifer Hertzberg, a postdoctoral researcher at Old Dominion University who has reconnected to a childhood pastime. Here's a bit more about Hertzberg and Old Dominion administrator Nakia Madry-Smith, their hobbies and the workplace benefits.

JENNIFER HERTZBERG

JOB Postdoctoral research associate, Department of Ocean, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences

WHAT SHE DOES Working with Associate Professor Matthew Schmidt, Hertzberg analyzes the chemical composition of microfossils from the ocean. They're trying to chart temperature variations in the Eastern Equatorial Pacific over the past 65,000 years. That could help researchers better predict future El Niño trends.

HOBBY Putting together Lego kits. "It's not your average hobby, especially for an adult," she says.

Hertzberg estimates she has more than 100 in her apartment in Chesapeake. Her collection includes nano-block replicas of animals (sheep, camel, llama, lion) and world landmarks (Buckingham Palace, Stonehenge, the Louvre, the Leaning Tower of Pisa). She also has regular-size Lego city sights such as the U.S. Capitol, the Manhattan skyline and the Tower Bridge in London. A box on a table contains the parts for a future project: a Saturn V rocket. "This one has about 2,000 pieces. It's going to take me a while."



HOW SHE GOT STARTED Growing up, Hertzberg and her brother and sister constructed Lego cities in the attic of their house on Long Island, New York. About five years ago, Hertzberg's sister gave her a Lego alpaca for her birthday, and she got hooked all over again.

THE PROCESS Hertzberg usually works on her Legos on the weekends. "It's a chance to turn my brain off," she says. But she maintains the hyper-organized approach that guides her at work: "I tend to sort them by shape before I start." She predicts she'll get a 600-piece Shanghai scene done in three hours. The Capitol took eight hours to complete.

THE BENEFITS She manipulates the microfossils, which are usually no bigger than grains of sand, with a small paintbrush. Her Lego hobby has improved her "manual dexterity." Breakthroughs don't come quickly in her research, "so it's nice to get instant gratification by completing something in a short amount of time." The weekend diversion allows her to return to work on Mondays more refreshed.

THE DOWN SIDE "The hardest part is moving."



NAKIA MADRY-SMITH (M.B.A. '05)

JOB Director, Peninsula Center

HISTORY AT ODU She has led the center in Hampton since 2015. Madry-Smith previously worked at Old Dominion's Career Development Services for six years. "Everyone at ODU has been super-supportive of my outside interests," she said.

HOBBY She sings with two local groups, The Fuzz Band and Rocky 7. Their repertoire ranges from funk and progressive soul to '70s R&B and jazz fusion.

THEIR VENUES The Fuzz Band performed at one of former President Obama's inaugural parties and three USO tours. Locally, the bands appear at everything from corporate events and festivals to weddings. April to August is her busy season. She had three gigs one day this summer.

HOW SHE GOT STARTED "I've been singing since I was 5. I was in the church choir."

HER LOOK She shaves both sides of her head. On stage, she wears a frilly tutu – or princess skirt – and black combat boots. The boots show her tomboy side. Her tutu "provides an amazing connection with kids. It's fun and magical. I love seeing people dance. It usually starts with children and goes from there."

THE BENEFITS At Career Development Services, her music helped her connect with students and dissuade them from the notion that "you have to choose one thing or the other. I do what I love and I still have a life. It brings balance to everything." At the Peninsula Center, too, "it helps me connect to people and it helps them see who you are as a person." And it offers her "opportunities for networking and relationship building" when the band is hired by business or government leaders.

The day after a concert, "it's almost like coming off a vacation. I'm refreshed and rejuvenated. It makes you more open to dealing with things when they happen. I'm not stressed out."

"LIVING THE DREAM" "I dreamed of being a singer, and now I am. It's exhausting at times, but I'm so fulfilled by it."

THE DOWN SIDE Sometimes after a heavy concert schedule, Madry-Smith has to take a day of annual leave to recharge.

Listen to Madry-Smith and the Fuzz Band perform Aretha Franklin's "Rocksteady" at <https://soundcloud.com/will-urquhart/track-02-the-fuzz-band-at?in=will-urquhart/sets/the-fuzz-band-at-lockn-8242018>

Photos/video: Vicki Cronis-Nohe



By Philip Walzer

From Miss Ruby, hugs and 'baby' care

FOR 50 YEARS

By Philip Walzer

"THANK YOU, BABY."

"Have a good day, baby."
 "You know I'm here if you need to talk to me."
 For half a century, Miss Ruby has dispensed a generous portion of tender – and sometimes tough – love, along with an ample helping of hugs, to thousands of students on their way to meals.
 Miss Ruby, formally known as Ruby Milteer, turned 75 in July. She started work at Old Dominion on Aug. 16, 1968.
 "I just love what I do – that's the only way I can put it," she said over the summer. "I enjoy meeting students and faculty, and I try to be nice to everybody. All of them are special to me."
 An interview with Miss Ruby in Broderick Dining Commons in July was repeatedly interrupted by well

wishes from her colleagues. "We all love Miss Ruby," executive chef Bob Patton said.
 The following month, she received even more attention at a reception honoring her "50 years of service excellence," held at Webb Center, where it all began.
 It featured a video with testimonials from admirers including President John R. Broderick, ESPN anchor Jay Harris '87, teams and coaches and a number performed by the Monarch Marching Band on the 50-yard line of S.B. Ballard Stadium at Foreman Field. Still more fans extolled Miss Ruby from the podium.
 "Without you, we'd be lost," said Joann Haviland, the food service director at the dining commons. "You keep us straight every day."
 Miss Ruby, who received a rocking chair with an ODU seal, said, "I love

you all and appreciate you all. It won't be 50 more, but I'll do what I can."
Miss Ruby has known every president of Old Dominion.
 She calls her co-workers when they're sick, sometimes twice a day. Students call her to check in after they graduate.
 She started as a cashier and rose to supervisor. Now she swipes students' cards as they enter Broderick Dining Commons. The food has gone upscale – she especially likes the rice sticks – and so have the surroundings.
 But for Miss Ruby, the dining hall has another advantage. "It's exciting," she said. "You can see people coming from all directions. As soon as they hit the door, 'Oh, Miss Ruby!' – especially my soccer babies."
 She calls everybody "Baby." "I mean it from my heart. They all seem like babies to me. Some come around and say, 'I need a hug.' I say, 'Sure.'" Among athletes, the members of the women's soccer and men's basketball teams are the most frequent recipients.
 Students say the "babies" and hugs make a difference. One told her: "You don't know how those words help me through the day."
 "I know they're away from home for the first time," said Miss Ruby, who

won the Monarch Legacy Award in 2015. "They need to feel like they're welcome here."
One memory illustrates the close connections she makes with students – and their families.
 A freshman was having trouble adjusting to college life. His parents met her during a visit to campus, and his mother called Miss Ruby afterward. "She said, 'You made me and my husband feel so welcome. It left us with a sense of security that our son was going to be just fine.'"
 The mom kept in touch with Miss Ruby. Then she got sick, and Miss Ruby was the one calling her. "When I got the call that she had passed, that really got to me," she said.
 She can be tough on students, too, when she hears them talk about missing classes.
 "I say, 'Baby, can you give me a minute? I need to talk to you. Even though your parents aren't here, you know they wouldn't want you to skip class.' I give them a stern look, and I say, 'Am I right or am I wrong?'
 "They say, 'Miss Ruby, I know you're right. Can I get a hug?' I say, 'Of course, baby.'"

In Praise of Miss Ruby

I met Miss Ruby in 1985 as an 18-year-old smarter-than-life freshman. She quickly taught me the campus values of respecting others and being friendly to people through her stern looks and caring personality. She became my "campus mom" for the remaining four years. We reconnected in 2011 and 2015 when my son and daughter attended Old Dominion. She was my kids' "campus grandmother" and provided them with a higher level of care and love than she did with me 30 years prior. My kids would often tell me that Miss Ruby said hello and made sure they were doing their best in school.

–Max Willey '89

Such a sweet lady! Miss Ruby shines brighter than the sun each morning. She remembered my name and made sure I had the best dining experience possible. She is the heartbeat of the Monarch Dining community, and I congratulate her on 50 years!

– Chad Hess '18, master's student in education

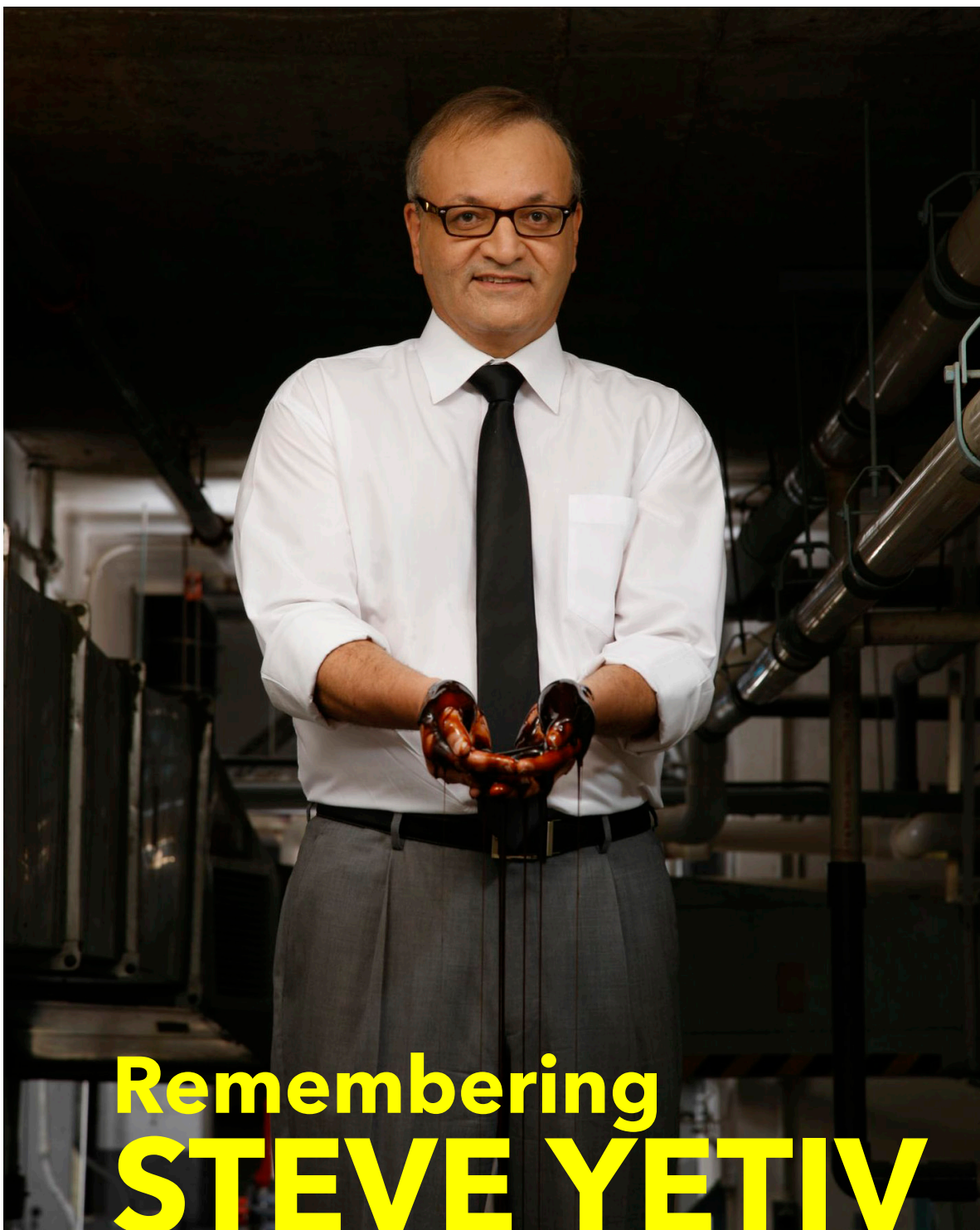
I have known Miss Ruby pretty much all of my life. My memories go back to my elementary school years in the '80s, when I would be on campus for a summer camp, and continue through my graduation in 2002. Miss Ruby always showed kindness, and I would always get a hug. She displayed excellent customer service and even at our last encounter, for my mother's retirement in 2015, she wanted to make sure everything was perfect. She is a true gem.

–Akhira (Mims) McFarland '02

When I was a freshman, it was my first time away from home and I missed my family and friends. Miss Ruby always had a smile and kind word when I would come through the line. She learned my name and the names of my friends and made me feel part of the Monarch community. She would ask how classes were going, and give you "stern words" if she found out you were skipping. I saw Miss Ruby often during my times as a student and the years I worked at ODU. She never forgot me and would always ask how my day was going. It is people like her that make ODU so special.

–Adrienne Giles '04 (M.S.Ed. '09, Ed.S. '15)





Remembering STEVE YETIV

Scholar, Motivator, Cool Nerd

By Philip Walzer

FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER in more than a quarter-century, the Batten Arts and Letters Building is without Steve Yetiv.

No more corny nicknames bestowed on his doctoral students. No more talking them out of despair or championing their successes, either.

No more scholarly books on the politics of energy or op-eds to bring his research to the public.

And no more trips to “the Burg” or drives around Norfolk with the windows down and cheesy old rock tunes pumped up.

Yetiv, the Louis I. Jaffe Professor of International Relations, died of a massive heart attack on March 21. He was 53.

A memorial service for Yetiv at the end of the spring semester showcased his kinetic impact.

It lasted two hours and drew about 200 people to the Chandler Recital Hall in the Diehn Center for the Performing Arts. Fifteen people – including professors, administrators, former students and his brother – shared deeply personal memories of Yetiv, revealing lesser-known facets, such as his quiet philanthropy and his fascination with the Hope Diamond.

“He was a world-class scholar, an outstanding teacher and mentor, and a good person, all wrapped up in one,” said Jonathan Leib, chairman of the Department of Political Science and Geography.

But “his great brilliance,” said Yetiv’s high school friend John Dettling, “was the art of friendship.” Here’s a window into Yetiv’s many personalities:

His research and influence

Yetiv wrote nine books – including “Myths of the Oil Boom” and “Crude Awakenings” – co-wrote another and published more than 250 op-ed columns. He advocated an increase in the national gas tax, as well as greater incentives for the use of electric cars.

“He was the world’s leading authority on the politics of oil; he knew the Middle East like the back of his hand,” Patrick James, president of the International Studies Association, said in a video shown at the memorial.

Yetiv received the state’s highest honor for professors, the Outstanding Faculty Award, in 2012. “He was essential to us becoming what we are and what we still can become,” said Regina Karp, the director of Old Dominion’s Graduate Program in International Studies, who started at ODU in 1993, the same year Yetiv did.

His philanthropy

Jack Yetiv described his brother as a “budding philanthropist.” Steve Yetiv paid for two showings of the film “Hidden Figures” to nearly 1,000 students in summer enrichment programs, his brother said. Last year, he donated more than half of his salary to the Tidewater Jewish Foundation.

“He had a heart for people he wasn’t necessarily connected to,” said doctoral student Alex Fretz. “He inserted himself into the equation and always made a difference.”

His philosophy

“He said, ‘My job is to teach students not what to think, but how to think,’” said Mary Bell, a recent doctoral recipient. “It’s more important to ask

students about their experiences than to tell them about mine.”

Austin Jersild, the chairman of the history department, said: “Steve had that rare ability to ask questions against the grain, always exploring problems and assumptions in new ways.”

His devotion to students

Allison Greene-Sands worked as an assistant women’s basketball coach while she was a graduate student. Yetiv, she said, “went to all of my games for years.”

When she wondered whether to leave coaching to pursue a degree in international studies, he advised: “Follow your heart; it will never steer you wrong.”

Greene-Sands finished her doctorate in 2003. But her mother was dying of cancer. So Yetiv expedited a private graduation ceremony so her mother could see her receive her degree.

Katerina Oskarsson came to the United States from the Czech Republic with only a high school degree. “He was my major source of motivation, inspiration and courage when I needed it the most,” said Oskarsson, who received her doctorate in 2013. But “when you slipped up, he called you on it and provided a great reality check.”

Yetiv’s last book, “Challenging Hegemony: The United States, China, and Russia in the Persian Gulf,” was co-written with Oskarsson and published by Stanford University Press in January.

His kookiness

He once wore a woman’s graduation gown to commencement. He gave nearly everyone a nickname. Dettling was “Third World Dett.” Lauren McKee, who received her doctorate in 2014, was “Lauren Mc-Key-stone Pipeline.”

It got more complicated sometimes. Yetiv’s close friend Betty Rose Facer, a master lecturer in world languages and cultures, said: “He called me Etty, and I called him Eve.”

Whenever Yetiv was in Washington, he wanted to go to the Smithsonian to see the Hope Diamond. “Don’t ask,” Dettling said. “I have no idea.”

He made everyone laugh. “I think he used humor to make people feel comfortable and special,” McKee said.

His coolness

That’s the word that kept coming up. But Yetiv’s coolness, friends said, came from his awareness that he really was a nerd.

President John R. Broderick, who also started at Old Dominion in 1993, said his nephew took one of Yetiv’s courses. He told Broderick: “I really, really like Dr. Yetiv. He’s a great teacher and a really cool guy.”

McKee recalled seeing Yetiv arrive at a World Affairs Council event in his white Prius, “blasting Boston’s ‘More Than A Feeling.’” He rolled past and flashed me a peace sign. He was infinitely cool.”

His love of life, ODU and Hampton Roads

“He couldn’t wait to get to his work,” said Glen Sussman, a professor of political science and geography, who called Yetiv “the brother I never had.”

Facer said, “To say Steve was a Hampton Roads enthusiast was an understatement.” A classic photo showed him in front of the giant Rubber Duck that visited Norfolk in 2014. Facer recalled their visits to “the Burg” – his nickname for Williamsburg – Yetiv aiming “a million questions to any William and Mary student within earshot.”

Simon Serfaty, Eminent Scholar and professor of political science and geography, said: “He liked who he was, and he was exactly who he wanted to be. He liked where he was, and that was exactly where he wanted to be. The word that defines him best is happy.”

Yetiv, McKee said, taught her “to turn up the music, turn down the windows and just enjoy life.”

Yetiv was mentioned during spring commencement by speaker John Adam, University Professor of mathematics:

“Our Old Dominion family is still mourning the loss of a kind and brilliant colleague, Dr. Steve Yetiv. I deeply regret that I did not get to know him better when I had the chance. Please do not let ‘busyness’ snatch from you the opportunity to get to know someone better.”



Photos courtesy of Betty Rose Facer, Rob Shapiro and Jack Yetiv

Then & Now: A free-speech controversy that agitated campus 50 years ago

By Philip Walzer

PROVOCATIVE OR OFFENSIVE?

FALL 1968

It started with the literary equivalent of a sledgehammer. “Mary was a whore, really. But Joe didn’t know that, so he had agreed to marry her.”

It ended with another thunderous bang: “But there is something I don’t understand. Why, dear, is the baby black?”

The baby was Jesus Christ.

Nearly 50 years ago, Old Dominion College’s literary magazine, the *Gadfly*, published the two-page story, titled “The Immaculate (sic) Deception.”

The reverberations rumbled all the way to Richmond. Gov. Mills Godwin Jr. complained to ODU President Lewis Webb and asked Frank Batten, the rector of the Board of Visitors, to look into it.

The request kicked up a debate on free speech, academic freedom and the role of advisers.

It also left the magazine’s adviser, English professor Leland Peterson, wondering whether he would receive the raise that had been recommended for him – or even if he would keep his job.

Peterson, a researcher in 18th-century British literature, came to Old Dominion in 1961. The next year, he helped students launch the *Gadfly*.

The issue with the “Immaculate Deception” came out in December 1968. The uproar bubbled up early the following year.

At least one minister complained to the governor. Godwin’s assistant, Carter Lowance, phoned Webb in February to express Godwin’s dismay. “The governor came on the line and was obviously very annoyed and upset by the article,” Webb wrote in a letter to Batten, saying the call lasted at least 15 minutes.

Godwin also wrote to Batten, complaining about the magazine’s “utter lack of good taste” and asking the board to review it.

In February, faculty members received notice that their contracts would be renewed for the next year. Peterson didn’t hear a word.

He already held tenure, but the missing contract seemed ominous for his family. “That’s what I remember – he might lose his job,” his daughter Merrie Jo Milner said recently. “It was terrifying.”

Peterson’s wife, Betty, said, “We were all worried. We didn’t know what we would do – we had four kids and a mortgage.”

In March, two weeks after other faculty members received their contract extensions, Webb visited Peterson’s house to deliver the contract. His son Eric, then a youngster, answered the door.

Eric summoned his grandmother, who was visiting. “There was a good bit of talk later about how curt my grandmother had been to the college president,” Eric Peterson said. “I guess she wasn’t too happy with him for causing trouble for her boy.”

She was probably unhappier after her son opened the envelope. The contract didn’t include the \$1,300 raise that had been approved by the provost, dean and department chairman.

THE IMACULATE DECEPTION

Mary was a whore, really. But Joe didn’t know that, so he had agreed to marry her. She had been able to talk him into marrying her, but Joe was so proper, so prim, so dull that Mary had not been able to get him into bed. Not yet.

The doctor had told Mary about her pregnancy in late April, and here it was July. She must marry somebody, and Joe seemed the easiest target. Momma would approve. Momma would like Joe. But what could she tell Momma about the baby? It was due in December and since Mary couldn’t talk Joe into marrying her immediately, she must tell Momma something about the baby!

“I’ve got it! I’ve got it! I’ve got it!” said Mary one day. She knew what to tell Momma.

Momma was a religious fanatic. Momma worked down at the Miracle Evangelism Center every night until eleven. Momma marched with the Salvation Army every Thursday and Sunday afternoon. Momma prayed constantly. Ever since Daddy had been run over by the Good Humor truck, Momma had been a religious fanatic.

What particularly annoyed Webb, he said in a 1975 interview in the Perry Library's archive, was that Peterson had not read "The Immaculate Deception" before publication.

"I said, 'Dr. Peterson..., this is supposed to be an educational experience for them, and I expect you to read their stuff and tell them this is not up to standards...'"

Peterson saw it differently.

"Whenever they (students) asked my advice and they did so from time to time, I was happy to give my opinion," he said in a 1977 interview in the archive. "But always it was to be the student editors' final choice."

The furor bubbled across campus.

The Faculty Senate declared Peterson's treatment "a flagrant abuse of academic freedom." Its chairman, Albert Teich Jr., told Webb in a letter the faculty was in "an increasing state of unrest."

The Student Government Association

passed a motion supporting Peterson's contract extension and raise. Graduate students in the English department sent Webb a petition calling Peterson "a publishing scholar of the first rank and an excellent teacher."

"It was hard to concentrate on your daily work," recalled James McNally, then an English professor and president of ODU's chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

The clamor, McNally said, reflected the deeper currents roiling the country: the raucous debate about the Vietnam War, the struggle between "those who wanted to keep things as they were and those who challenged the status quo."

Peterson was in the latter category. "He had been going against the main current for so long," his wife said. In 1968, he led the regional committee supporting Eugene McCarthy, the anti-war presidential candidate.

Yet Peterson, then in his 40s, didn't

About Leland Peterson

Leland Peterson taught at Old Dominion from 1961 until his retirement in 1992. He was chairman of the Faculty Senate from 1965 to 1967 and founded the East-Central/American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, which brings together scholars from the mid-Atlantic.

In the last decade of his career, he took on a new role: teaching Latin. The year after he retired, he continued to teach second-year Latin for free to keep it going in the face of state budget cuts. He called it a "modest volunteer effort" in an article in *The New York Times*.

Peterson died in 2012.

Peterson's family is offering books from his collection to the public. They are available near the elevators on the fifth floor of the Batten Arts and Letters Building.



act like a firebrand. The *Virginian-Pilot* described him as a "soft-spoken, pipe-smoking English professor." McNally was amazed "he was so composed despite the threat to himself and his family of six."

The controversy rippled into the letters pages of *The Pilot* and even entered the civics class that Peterson's daughter Merrie Jo attended at Maury High School. Her teacher brought up the issue and helped her see her father in a new light. "He said, 'Your dad fought for freedom of speech.'"

The matter was resolved in April 1969 at a special meeting of the board. Batten issued a lengthy statement afterward. Webb, the board found, had acted "within his proper authority in delaying the salary offer until he could seek the advice of the board."

However, the board said Peterson's role as *Gadfly* adviser should have no bearing on his salary, partly because advisers' responsibilities were not spelled out. It approved a \$1,000 raise – still less than the \$1,300 recommended by the provost and others.

Old Dominion returned to academics as usual. "No binding injury was done to the individuals or the institution," McNally said.

Nor, apparently, to Peterson's relationship with Webb, who retired later that year. "I see him from time to time," Peterson said in the 1977 interview, "and we have amiable discussions."

The Perry Library's Special Collections & University Archives provided material for this story.



Counterclockwise from upper left: Leland Peterson; his wife, Betty, and their children Kirstin, Eric, Merrie Jo and David. (1967 photo)

Our best to 'Mrs. Gov'

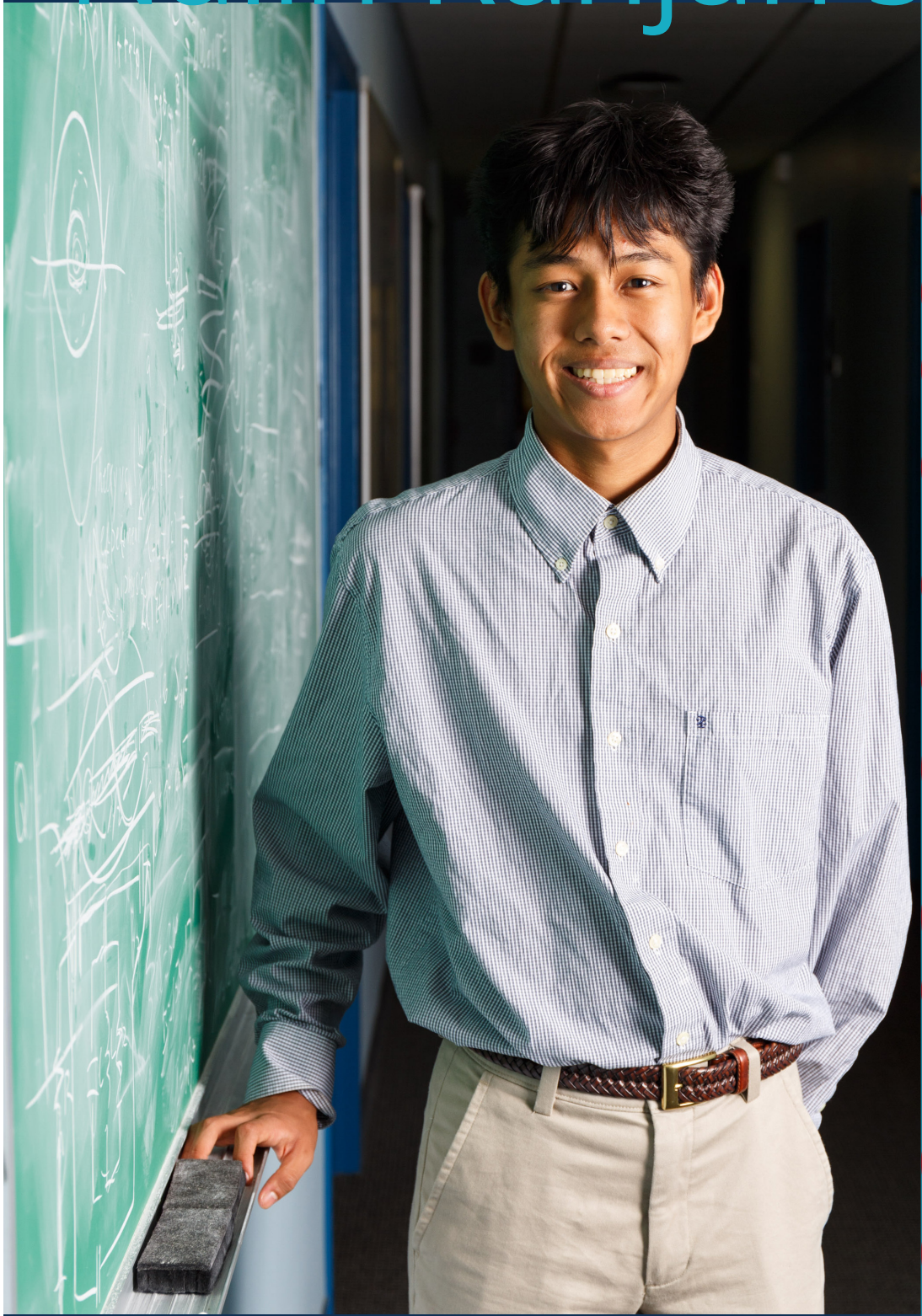
David Russell, the writer of the piece and editor of the *Gadfly*, admitted to the *Mace and Crown* in April 1969 that the article was "of mediocre literary value." He intended it, he said, as "an unorthodox challenge to all Christians on a traditional subject."

Russell's cohorts didn't help his cause. Two other students from the *Gadfly* sent Gov. Godwin a mocking letter, which said in part, "We've been doing alright since our last selection of perversion & doggerel." They also sent their love to "Mrs. Gov."



Nalin Ranjan's

Precocious Career



By Philip Walzer Photos: Roberto Westbrook

The title of the scientific paper – incomprehensible to most laymen – is: “Simulation of inverse Compton scattering and its implications on the scattered linewidth.”

It appeared in March in Physical Review, published by the American Physical Society.

The 13-page article lists six authors, including an assistant professor of physics at Old Dominion University. But the lead author is Nalin Ranjan. His affiliation is listed as “Princess Anne High School, Virginia Beach, Virginia.”

A physics teacher? Nope.

Nalin was a high school student at the time. He was 16 when he began the research, based at Old Dominion. Nalin recently graduated from Princess Anne as the valedictorian and began undergraduate studies at Princeton University.

His success is Old Dominion’s. His parents, Jing He and Desh Ranjan, are professors in ODU’s Department of Computer Science. Another faculty member, Balša Terzić, an assistant professor of physics, invited Nalin to join his research team, which works at the Center for Accelerator Science.

“It kind of just went from there,” said Nalin, who graduated high school early because he skipped first grade.

Terzić said he has never before seen an academic paper with a high school student listed as the lead author. “If it wasn’t for Nalin, this paper would have stayed in our heads,” he said.

“We started low,” Terzić said. “How much can you expect from a 16-year-old? We gave him a problem, and he solved it. We incrementally raised the bar until he had the same expectations as a graduate student.”

Geoffrey Krafft, a senior staff scientist at the Jefferson Lab and Jefferson Lab Professor of Physics at ODU, collaborated on the research. “When we train graduate students,” Krafft said, “we try to get them to the point where they’re really independent and want to solve the problems you give them. I never had to push Nalin to get the problem solved. He displayed great initiative, which is a non-trivial thing to teach people.”

Gail Dodge, the dean of the College of Sciences, said: “I am really pleased that Dr. Terzić, Dr. Krafft and other collaborators were able to mentor Nalin so effectively and provide the guidance that he needed to excel on this project. Teaching takes many forms, and mentoring students on research projects is one of the ways our faculty impact

the lives of young scientists every day.”

For his part, Nalin said the experience “makes me feel very satisfied. But I feel a hunger to do more. There are so many problems left unresolved.”

A 10th-grade class at Princess Anne piqued Nalin’s interest in physics and its problem-solving possibilities. He’d known Balša Terzić, who was a friend and collaborator of his father’s, since he was 11, so he asked him for a few physics books to dig a little deeper.

In 2017, Nalin attended Old Dominion’s Undergraduate Research Symposium. He wanted to be part of that world. This time, he asked Terzić if he could help the research team. Terzić said yes.

Nalin began work in March of last year, spending at least two hours a week in the lab. His mother soon noticed a change. Right after he caught up on international soccer scores when he got home from school, Nalin checked to see if he’d received any emails from Terzić or Krafft.

“There was a lot of dedication from both sides to do this; that’s something you don’t see that often,” his father said. Before Nalin learned to drive, he’d take the Tide to Norfolk and Terzić would pick him up at the station and drive him to the lab.

Jing He also credited the support her son received from the gifted education and high school academy programs in the Virginia Beach school system: He was allowed to study statistics as a freshman and took 16 Advanced Placement classes in high school, on top of his International Baccalaureate course load.

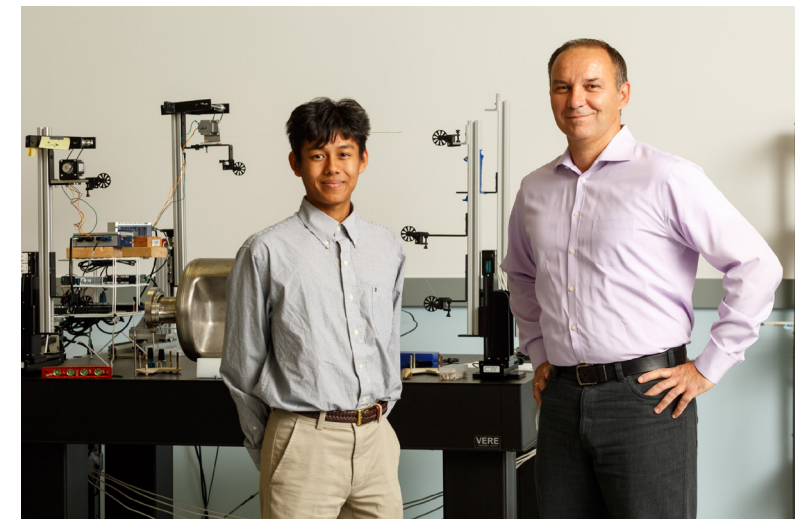
So what exactly was his research about?

Nalin, already experienced at translating his work for the non-scientist, said, “We are investigating colliding high-energy electrons with de-energized light to create a more precise X-ray.” The benefits could include more targeted – and more effective – X-rays to treat cancerous tumors.

He also collaborated by email with three researchers from Milan, Italy, who are co-authors of the study.

“This work would not have been done without Nalin,” Krafft said. “I think that’s the perfect justification of his being the lead author of the paper, independent of whether he was a high school student.”

With support from the Virginia Space Grant Consortium, Nalin accompanied Terzić to the International Parti-



cle Accelerator Conference in Vancouver, Canada, in April and presented the poster outlining their findings. Nalin was struck by the participants’ “down-to-earth nature” and passion for their work.

“Even as perhaps the youngest delegate there,” he wrote in an essay about his experience at the conference, “I felt as if I belonged in this new community that I had found.”

His parents said Nalin’s experience shows that professors and teachers should have high expectations for their students. “Nalin was very fortunate that his mentors kept raising the bar and challenging him to see where he could go,” Desh Ranjan said.

Nalin continued working in the lab over the summer before he left for Princeton. Terzić said he’s open to bringing on other high school students, “but I’m not holding my breath that I’ll see anyone like him anytime soon.”

To learn more about Old Dominion’s Center for Accelerator Science, go to <https://www.odu.edu/sci/research/cas>

HIS FUTURE PATH

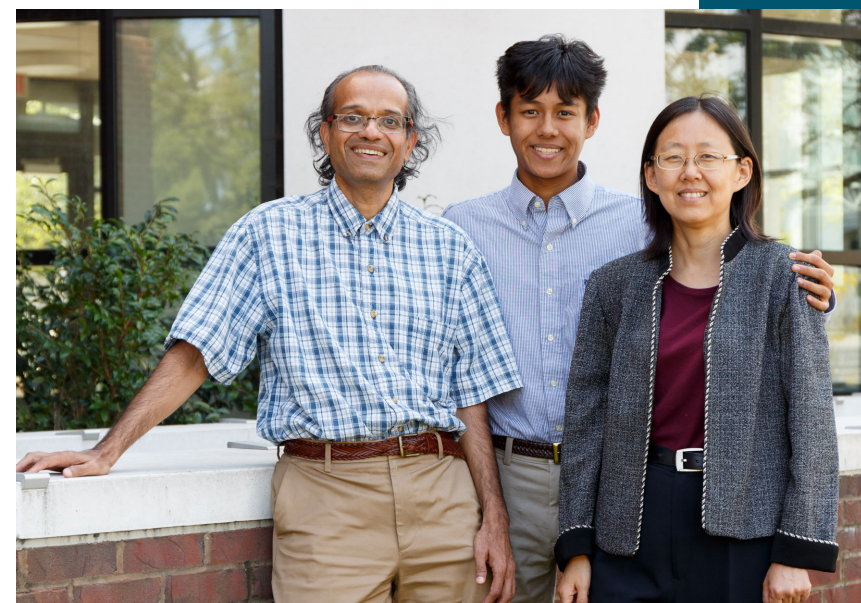
Nalin was accepted by Princeton University in its early admission process and began classes in September.

“I’m sure Princeton will keep him very humble,” his father, Desh Ranjan, said.

For Nalin, part of the appeal of his research project was its blend of physics and computer science. But he’ll have to make a decision in a couple of years: Will he major in computer science, his parents’ specialty, or physics, his mentors’ discipline?

He’s keeping his options open. “I’m not ready to decide quite yet,” Nalin said. “But wherever I end up, both will play a role.”

His father said: “We want him to be open-minded and explore more in college. We don’t care what major he chooses. We want him to do something he’s passionate about.”





By Philip Walzer Photo: Yolonda Coles Jones

IN APRIL, ROBERT Q. BERRY III '91 became president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, which has 50,000 members.

Berry, who started his career as a middle school teacher in Newport News, taught mathematics education at Old Dominion from 2002 to 2005. Berry is an associate professor at the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education.

Recently, he spoke about overcoming the fear of math, the consequences of standardized testing and his favorite pi. (Hint: It's not cherry.)

I THINK ALL PEOPLE CAN DO MATH

How do you respond to someone who says, "I just can't do math"?

I get that quite frequently. I think all people can do math. Sometimes we underappreciate the mathematics that we already do. So I try to identify the ways that we do math, whether it's an adult driving a car and the math behind that or a child organizing and sorting items. It's interesting that some folks are comfortable saying, "I can't do math." But there's a stigma when somebody says, "I can't read."

I've always thought it would help if we could target math instruction to students' particular interests. For instance, one of my sons has always been nuts about baseball statistics.

I couldn't agree more. I'm all for making those kinds of connections with students' interests, whether it's baseball statistics or music or art. I'm also supportive of courses built around those ideas.

A group in Baltimore County has created opportunities for students to use music scales and the mathematics behind music. In Oakland, California, they have started a club where students are using sports analytics. That can help students answer the question, "When am I ever going to use this?"

What can parents do to increase their children's interest in math?

Talk math with your kids. I used to play a game with my sons on the checkout line: How much do you think it's going to be? That's an estimation skill. Or when you're shopping, try to decide between the large box of cereal and the medium box.

I also think parents can be advocates for their children

in schools. Take a look at the work they're doing; ask them questions. I've heard parents say, I haven't done this kind of math in a long, long while. Parents can still ask the kids questions. You get a sense whether or not the child really understands it, even if you don't understand the mathematics yourself.

How has standardized testing like the SOLs in Virginia affected math instruction in America?

I think it helps identify what the standards are and I think we can determine the lines of proficiency based on performance on standardized tests. I also think it's broadened the discussion around what mathematics students should learn and when they should learn it. I do think in a lot of places people are teaching solely to the test, and that becomes the primary experience of the student. We have to create opportunities where students can experience the joy, wonder and beauty mathematics offers.

What are your top goals as president of the association?

One is to be an advocate not only for math teachers, but also for teachers in the broader space. We need to engage Capitol Hill and different legislators to support teachers and schools in terms of funding, in terms of human and material resources.

NCTM just released a document titled "Catalyzing Change in High School Mathematics." One key recommendation is that every high school student should learn four years of mathematics. Another is the elimination of student tracking, the idea that students are tracked into qualitatively different pathways of study.

Have U.S. students been doing better in math in the last decade or two?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress tests show that in grades 4 and 8, there's been growth over the past 30 years. In the same time period for grade 12, it's been relatively flat. That is why we have to take a look at high

school mathematics teaching and learning.

You've told teachers: "Think of math as a social endeavor." What did you mean?

It might mean having kids share their ideas, oftentimes their strategies. I have a colleague who uses "rough draft talk." You may not have the answer, but we can engage in "rough draft talk." It's OK to have rough drafts in math in the same way you have rough drafts in language arts. As you have this conversation, maybe ideas bubble up.

Who is your favorite mathematician and why?

I don't know if I necessarily have a favorite. I read "Hidden Figures," and I saw the movie. I have an affinity for it because I'm a native of Hampton. Katherine Johnson (who received an honorary doctorate from ODU in 2010) is the one who comes to mind. More students of color can see the possibility of what they can become because of the foundation that she has laid.

Finally, how do you celebrate Pi Day?

I have celebrated Pi Day by purchasing chocolate cream and apple pies. I also have done activities with kids focused on finding the ratio between the circumference and diameter of different sized circles. That's the definition of pi.

I wrote an article back in 2015 about pi. I talked about March 14, 2015, at 9:26 a.m. or p.m. and 53 seconds because that will get you 3.141592653, which is pi to nine decimal places.

It's become like pop culture, which is always good for mathematics. It helps to have "Big Bang Theory" on television. I love it when mathematics is highlighted in a very positive way. But I was critical when McDonald's did a commercial not too long ago, and the person in the commercial said they hated math. I tweeted at McDonald's about it. We have to begin to model math as something that all folks do.

ALUMS LAND A 'WOW' JOB IN



By Tom Robinson

"Boo Painter" dribbled the basketball near the foul line, burst past his defender and dunked the ball with two hands. The studio audience went crazy – to say nothing of Painter's teammates sitting beside him at their video-game controllers.

Welcome to NBA 2K League, the National Basketball Association's professional e-sports venture in which Old Dominion University alumni Austin "Boo" Painter '17 and Fred Mendoza '16 starred in the recently completed inaugural season.

The alumni lived every console jockey's dream – they played video games for money. Each earned \$32,000 for a four-month season, plus benefits and free housing.

"I'm still at the 'wow' stage about all this," Painter said in the middle of the season.

Painter, who majored in sociology and criminal justice, quit his job in diplomatic security for the U.S. State Department after only seven months to play in Washington for Wizards District Gaming. The daring move earned Painter a feature story in *The Washington Post*. He backed up his bold choice, though.

Playing as a forward, Painter led the league in scoring at 32 points per game, was runner-up for Most Valuable Player and produced what was voted the season's "best play," a drive that resulted in a resounding slam dunk.

"When I told everybody at work I was leaving to play video games all day, they all said, 'Can you get me on too?'" Painter said with a laugh. "They were all on board. They were like, 'You go, that's awesome.'"

Painter said his understanding of actual basketball – he played in high school – and years of gamer experience account for his NBA 2K success.

"I'm just an all-around nerd when it comes to video games," he said.

Mendoza, who majored in information technology, also left a solid position with a government contractor in Northern Virginia. As the point guard named "I'm So Far Ahead," borrowed from a lyric by rapper Lil Wayne, Mendoza averaged 13 points and 8 assists in the regular season, living in Detroit and playing for Pistons GT.

"I told my mom I may quit my job and do this, and I know she was kind of skeptical about it, especially because I was the first in my family to graduate from college," he said.

But "NBA 2K is my passion," said Mendoza, who didn't know Painter at ODU. "It was one of those things I couldn't pass up."

NBA 2K is the country's most popular esports title, selling nearly 9 million copies last year. The NBA partnered with the game's designer, Take-Two Interactive Software, to ride the wave of esports-mania by forming the league. Seventeen of the NBA's 30 franchises sponsored teams in the first season, paying an entry fee of \$750,000 for three seasons. Four more teams are set to join the league next year.

The reputations Painter and Mendoza built over years of playing NBA 2K online earned them initial consideration for roster spots – along with 72,000 other candidates.

Extensive auditions reduced that number to 250 and finally to the 102 players, all males, who were eligible for April's draft. Painter was chosen in the second round, Mendoza in the fifth.

During the season, teams lived together and practiced



Fred Mendoza '16
Pistons GT
Points per game 13.5
Assists per game 8.1



Austin "Boo" Painter '17
Wizards District Gaming
Points per game 32.3
Rebounds per game 7.7

daily from 9 to 5 with their coaches. Often they analyzed film of opponents or practiced against visiting NBA 2K League teams, which came to town for a "boot camp" week.

All teams then traveled each weekend to a Long Island, New York, production studio, filled with boisterous fans, to play games, special tournaments and the playoffs. A \$1 million bonus pool was split among the winning players.

The gamer website Twitch streamed all the action live using a play-by-play announcer and a color analyst, as in genuine NBA games.

Mendoza said the professional trappings made for a heady experience.

"As an amateur, it's very competitive out there; you want other players and fans to respect you," he said. "But as a professional, there's money on the line. There's an organization that depends on you. If I'm not playing well, I could be out of this league next season. There's definitely a lot more pressure."

As for next season, Painter is one of two players the Wizards were allowed to protect on the roster. He'll remain in Washington this offseason, practice the 2019 version of NBA 2K and do unspecified work for the Wizards. The Pistons haven't announced their protected players. In any case, both Monarchs say they remain all in on playing NBA 2K for fun and profit.

"I love this experience," Painter said. "It's a lot easier than getting headaches every day working for the State Department."

Tom Robinson used to enjoy Wii bowling with his kids. Does that count?

Check out this video of Painter and teammates. Photos and video courtesy NBA 2K League

NEW DEGREE NEW LIFE

By Philip Walzer

JOSH WHITENER rose to news editor of the Mace and Crown his second semester at Old Dominion University. One of his articles drew a congratulatory email from President John R. Broderick.

Within two years, he was writing for the Princess Anne Independent News, a community newspaper in Virginia Beach, and was urban music reporter for Veer magazine, an alternative arts journal.

But he fell hard and long.

After a broken engagement, he lapsed back into alcohol and painkillers, vices that had haunted him for nearly a decade. He took a semester off. He blacked out while driving and got into an accident that left him unable to walk for six months.

For more than a year after that, Whitener cycled in and out of rehab and sober houses in his native Florida, trying unsuccessfully to restart his studies. His low point came when he lived on the streets of Jacksonville for a week after he was kicked out of a shelter.

"It was a pretty scary experience," he said. "There's a vulnerability to not having four walls around you. I felt like an open nerve."

Whitener climbed back up. He's been clean this year. He took four online classes from ODU in the spring, completing his degree requirements. At the same time, he wrote for a newspaper and started his own recovery group.

He returned to Norfolk in May to receive his bachelor's degree in English. "When I walked across the stage, I felt a total sense of accomplishment that I haven't felt in a long time, if ever," Whitener, 33, said. "Now it's

time to move on to what was next."

Whitener had briefly attended two other schools – Roanoke College and Concordia University Chicago – before starting at Old Dominion in the fall of 2014.

He had been drawn to writing since middle school. "I love to create worlds, and writing always allowed me to do that," Whitener said.

His first semester, he immersed himself in the Mace and Crown, carving a beat on sexual assault. Whitener wrote nine articles on the subject and became the primary reporter the Women's Center contacted on

Homelessness isn't a problem that happens to someone else, he cautioned. "Everybody's really one bad day from being in that situation. I don't think people realize that." And many homeless people he encountered were "educated people; they're not dangerous, just down and out."

women's issues. They were stories, he said, "that weren't being told at the time."

For Whitener, who was sexually abused as a child, the writing experience "helped me work through it." It also cemented his connection to Old Dominion.

In January 2016, his fiancée broke off their engagement, upending his world. He left the apartment they shared and began

renting rooms in the area. "I wasn't taking care of myself."

He sank back into alcohol, drinking half a bottle of whiskey or vodka a day. Later, he added painkillers. He stopped going to class and then took a leave for the semester.

Whitener started suffering blackouts. They didn't happen when he was drunk or high, but he suspected a connection. He got into two car accidents and dislocated both shoulders. The third was much worse.

"The last thing I remember, I was rounding the corner," he recalled. When he came to, part of a tree was inside his car.

Whitener's left heel was crushed. He broke his right foot and right arm, paralyzing it for two months. He tore ligaments in his right knee.

He couldn't walk for six months and was at Riverside Regional Medical Center for three of them. He underwent six surgeries, three on his left foot.

He bounced between feeling helpless and determined to get on with life.

Whitener moved back to Florida in the summer of 2016 to recover. Later that year, though, his addictions reasserted control.

The following March, he checked into a 30-day rehab in Orlando. "I had an issue," he said, "and I needed to get a handle on where to go from there, seeing how I didn't even think I was supposed to be alive."

Not long after, he was kicked out of a sober house after relapsing. He lived out of his car for a month in Orlando last year. In the fall of 2017, he left for Jacksonville to try a homeless shelter that addressed drug addiction. The trouble was, it was faith-based and he was an atheist.

"They said your problem was your relationship to God; it wasn't anything medical

or psychological," he said. "It really wasn't helping me with anything."

Whitener hit bottom after he was expelled from the shelter in Jacksonville. For the next week, he slept in an abandoned house, a park or near alleys.

Homelessness isn't a problem that happens to someone else, he cautioned. "Everybody's really one bad day from being in that situation. I don't think people realize that." And many homeless people he encountered were "educated people; they're not dangerous, just down and out."

Along the way, he found work in construction and at an Amazon warehouse. But as recently as November, he plunged back into alcohol.

He broke free of the habit in December, and has been on an upward trajectory since.

He moved to Cocoa Beach that month. He landed a freelance writing position in January at Hometown News in Brevard County. The next month, he met his fiancée, Nafeeza Rahaman, 25, herself a recovering addict. In March, he started the first agnostic meeting group of Alcoholics Anonymous in the county. He enrolled in classes at Old Dominion and stuck with them.

"I felt like I deserved my homelessness due to my addiction and general depression," he said. "Overcoming that was a huge step in getting to where I needed to get mentally."

He also credits Janis Krebs Smith, a senior lecturer in English, for her support, even from afar. "In the last year, I had sensed his determination to complete what he had started," Smith said. "He worked really hard on every aspect of his life to finish his degree."

Rahaman recalled Whitener inviting her to his self-help group. She found out only when she got there that he ran it. "He doesn't realize he's a leader," she said. "That showed me what he's capable of doing."

Whitener, who was recently promoted to a full-time assistant editor at Hometown News, also is writing a screenplay, publishes poems and participates in poetry readings in Orlando. And he's the musical journalist and marketing strategist for Norfolk hip-hop artist Just Archie.

"Old Dominion helped me obtain not only my degree, but also a life," he says. "I essentially found out who I was."



Photo: Chuck Thomas

Click each box for more information

Monarchs Rule



Photos by Shara Weber



Four pockets of paradise on or near campus: (Above) Bluestone Park on Bluestone Avenue and (from left to right) 47th Street near Brock Commons, outside Rogers Hall and the Arthur & Phyllis Kaplan Orchid Conservatory.