

In this issue...



Runte steps down...1



Parent Poll...2



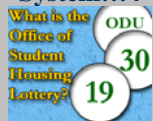
ODU gets a marching band...2



The Rhythm of College Life...3



ODU Alert Emergency System...4



Student Housing Lottery...4



Programs All Weekend...4



Common Myths about Grades...5



Spring Parents Meeting...6



Mark Your Calendar...6

Family Connection

Friends and Family Newsletter Spring 2008 Issue

RUNTE STEPS DOWN TO ACCEPT PRESIDENCY AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Old Dominion University President Roseann Runte has announced that she plans to step down July 1, 2008, to accept the position of president at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Runte succeeded James V. Koch as Old Dominion's seventh president in July 2001.

"I wish to thank so many people for the privilege of serving this fine university, which is definitely positioned on a trajectory toward continued success," Runte said in a note to the campus community. "I am proud of all we have achieved together. Seven years of dreams and accomplishments have flown by at the speed of light."

"The Board of Visitors is most appreciative of all that Dr. Roseann Runte has achieved and accomplished, and grateful for the tireless efforts she has put forth during her nearly seven years as president of Old Dominion, said University Rector Marc Jacobson. "Under her leadership, the university has made great strides in every area imaginable. She has helped raise the profile of Old Dominion as a respected academic and research institution.

"We couldn't have asked for more. And while we are saddened to see her go, we know that she is leaving behind a university that is well positioned to continue the remarkable progress that has been made, and we wish her well as she embarks on her own new journey," Jacobson added.

Jacobson said the board will appoint a Presidential Search Committee soon, to include Board of Visitors members, plus representatives from faculty, staff and alumni. The search committee will select a consulting firm to aid in the process of finding a new leader for Old Dominion University, but the final decision on a successor to Runte will be the responsibility of the Board of Visitors, Jacobson said.

Runte came to Old Dominion having previously served as president of Victoria University, principal of Glendon College and president of l'Université Sainte-Anne, all in Canada. She is the first woman to hold ODU's top office.

During her tenure, Runte has been credited with achievements on many fronts, from enrollment and campus expansion to legislative relations and fundraising. A capital campaign she put in place has raised more than \$100 million to date. She directed a tremendous period of growth in new campus facilities, valued at more than \$100 million, and set in motion a plan for the university to pursue and achieve Top 100 status as a public research university.

She also led a significant effort in academic affairs where both undergraduate and graduate programs flourished under her leadership. ODU's research portfolio and reputation grew through her support that brought needed funding to interdisciplinary areas including bioelectrics and modeling and simulation, which has made an enormous contribution to the local economy.

Through all her tireless efforts in administration, Runte has remained faithful to her love of students and the classroom, teaching at least one course each year. In addition, she has continued to write academic, creative and editorial pieces.

She has served on numerous boards and commissions including UNESCO, the Club of Rome, the National Bank of Canada, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Foundation for International Training, EXPO 2000 and the Southern Commission on Colleges. She is president of the American Council of Education's Commission on International Education and a member of the International Parliament of Cultures.

President Runte has been awarded the Order of Canada, the French Order of Merit, fellowship in the Royal Society, a prize from the French Academy and a number of honorary degrees.

Article retrieved from: http://www.odu.edu/webroot/orgs/IA/university_news.nsf/articles/01072008031744PM.
The Old Dominion University News – January 7, 2008.





Family Connection
Parent Poll

FAMILY CONNECTION PARENT POLL

It has been our pleasure to bring Old Dominion University news directly to you each semester, but now we want to know...

“What topics or articles would you like to see in future e-newsletters?”

Click [here](#) to reply



New Director Makes Plans

NEW DIRECTOR MAKES PLANS TO STRIKE UP THE BAND

By Michelle M. Falck

The prospect of an Old Dominion football team in the fall of 2009 is already stirring much excitement around campus, but for some, equally exciting is the news of a marching band. In preparation for this ODU musical tradition, a new member has joined the faculty.

Alex Treviño, who comes to Norfolk from the University of Washington in Seattle, joins ODU as the director of athletic bands and associate director of bands. While in Washington, he served as assistant director of the Husky Marching Band and Husky basketball bands from 2004-07.

Current students can audition for the ODU Marching Monarchs in the spring, and recruitment of prospective students will begin soon. He anticipates that scholarships will be available to all accepted members. Eventually the band will include a graduate assistant who will learn how to manage and direct a marching band.

The instrumentation will include: piccolo, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, mellophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, sousaphone, marching snare, marching bass drum, marching tenors and marching cymbals. There will be no pit percussion, as is found in competition bands, but plans call for a color guard and drum major.

Although game performances are still a ways off, the band will begin practices and participate in public performances, including parades and exhibitions, as of fall 2008.

Of great interest, Treviño says, will be the unveiling of the ODU Marching Monarchs' “signature move.” While working as a graduate assistant for the University of Tennessee “Pride of the Southland” marching band, Treviño introduced the “Zipper-T” maneuver, now a highlight of the Volunteer football team's pregame show. He currently is working on a number of creative ideas for the ODU band, but the final maneuver will depend upon the number of members. His goal is 240 members.

“You have to have something that the crowd looks forward to,” Treviño said. “That's where traditions start.”

Article retrieved from: http://www.odu.edu/ao/alumni_magazine/fall07/newbanddirector.html.

“You have to have something that the crowd looks forward to... That's where traditions start.”

**Monarch
Marching Band
website:**

<http://www.odu.edu/mmb>





The Rhythm of College Life

The Rhythm of College Life

Issues Students Face Throughout the Semester



February

Although February is the shortest month of the year, it may feel like the longest for students. As the coldest days of the year in Norfolk set in, some students may feel depression. This is a time of year when some students begin or increase alcohol or substance use. Valentine's Day can also lead to feelings of isolation. This may a good month to send a letter or care package to your student.

March

March is a busy month for students. Your student will begin searching for roommates for the following year. Thoughts about upcoming spring break and summer break plans may be exciting, yet stressful. Midterm exams are this month, which may cause some worry. As the days start to get a bit longer and the weather warms up a bit, your student is less likely to feel depressed.



May

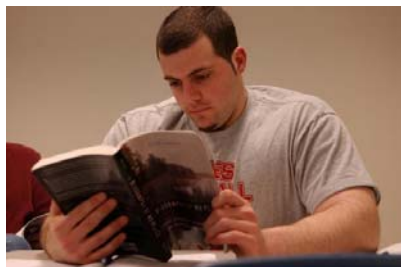
Students will feel a mix of excitement and concern this month.

Final exams will coincide with packing to return home.

Students will feel sad about leaving their friends for the summer and may be nervous about their first summer back at home.

Students will begin to realize how much they have changed in a year.

Students will realize how much of an impact college has on their life choices.



April

April brings questions and concerns about registering for fall classes and thoughts about declaring or changing a major begin to surface. Many assignments will be due this month as the semester is quickly approaching its end. The spring weather will be a nice change for students, but may prove a distraction to students.

Information gathered from:

Mullendore, R.H. & Hatch, C. (2000). *Helping your first-year college student succeed: A guide for parents*. Columbia, SC: OCM.

Johnson, H. & Schelhaus-Miller, C. (2000). *Don't tell me what to do, just send money*. New York, NY: St. Martins Press.





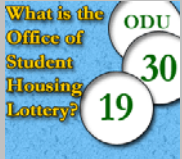
ODU Emergency Alert System



ODU ALERTS

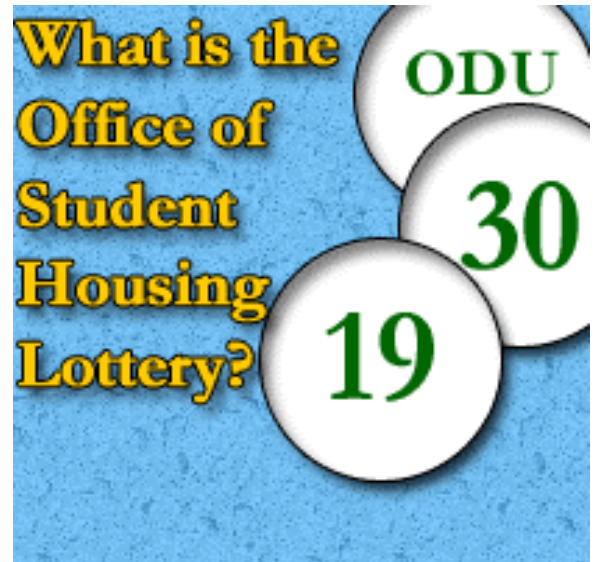
Old Dominion University offers a free emergency text messaging service for students, faculty and staff. This optional service will be used only for potential, developing or existing emergencies or weather advisories. During such events, an ODU text message alert will be sent with information about the situation. Additional information will be available on our homepage www.odu.edu.

Nothing else. No advertisements. No gimmicks. No hassle. Just ODU safety alerts and advisories when you need them. **To sign up, visit www.odu.edu/alerts.** Midas ID and password required.



Student Housing Lottery

Old Dominion University's 2008-2009 Room Assignment Process



For information on the Student Housing Lottery, please click the link below:

<http://www.studentaffairs.odu.edu/housing/ROOMERS2007.pdf>



Programs All Weekend



Programs All Weekend

For a full schedule of the spring semester weekend events, please go to:

<http://studentaffairs.odu.edu/paw/>





COMMON MYTHS ABOUT GRADES IN COLLEGE

Helping your student succeed in college can be a difficult task, especially when your students is transitioning from high school, where most teachers work harder to help students get good grades, to college where students must take responsibility for their own progress. Listed below are ten of the most common phrases that freshmen use to justify low grades. If your student is having trouble in the classroom, please encourage them to visit Tutoring Central.

MYTH #1: "It's Bad to Be a Grade-Grubber" The bottom line here is that grades, as Jacobs and Hyman put it, are the "currency" of college. Just as pro athletes want to achieve good stats, and employees crave a positive performance review, so too should students aim to do their best, and they shouldn't be embarrassed about being called a nerd or a geek because they get good grades.

MYTH #2: "Why Try to Get Good Grades? All I Need is That Piece of Paper?" The piece of paper, of course, is a diploma, which is important to achieve in order to be able fill that portion of a job or graduate school application. Increasingly, however, employers and grad schools are looking closely at the achievements of potential students, not just proof that they have done the bare minimum to graduate.

MYTH #3: "College? This is Going to Be a Cakewalk" Jacobs and Hyman here make a compelling case that is based on some straightforward math. As they write, "Most of the students who go on from high school to college are in the top percentage of their high school class." Simple logic tells you that not everybody can be in the top percentage of a college class, so some portion of students will slide down the grading scale.

MYTH #4: "E is for Effort" We're all familiar with middle school or high school classes that reward a student simply for turning in all homework, attending and participating in classes, and otherwise making one's presence known to the extent that a teacher comes to believe: "Wow, he/she is really trying," and rewards the student accordingly. That doesn't happen in college.

MYTH #5: "A is for Attendance" This point is somewhat akin to the one above, but as Jacobs and Hyman put it: "however valuable attendance may be, it's simply not the case that attendance will net you a good grade in college course." Just as we've all had bosses who say, "I don't care how you do it, just get it done well," so too do most professors only care about the end product.

MYTH #6: "If Only I Kiss Up Enough" Many professors grade tests and submissions blindly and many others have no idea who is in their class anyway. So the reality is that only in the smallest seminar type of classes is it possible for a student to gain the type of reputation that could actually help their grade. Some teachers will make clear that participation is important and sometimes even a gradable component, but unless delineated that way, the student should assume that the work product submitted will form the grade, period.

MYTH #7: "Grades are 100 Percent Subjective..." Here, Jacobs and Hyman tend to get their dander up a bit, making the point that grading is "a *system*, not just an opinion." They explain that students - and their parents - want to assume that grades are arbitrary. They go on to nearly scream off the page that students - and their parents - are wrong, and that, in fact, they are judging students' work against certain standards. The \$64,000 question, of course, is how to unlock the mysteries of the "*system*" to one's advantage.

MYTH #8: "I'll Never Get Good Grades. I'm Just Not a Good Student" Boy, that sounds defeatist, doesn't it? All of us have our doubts and fears and even the bravest of college students are no different. Jacobs and Hyman here tell students: "*The fact that you have been admitted to college shows that the college also believes that you can do well.*" It's probably good to remind your child of that point every once in a while.

MYTH #9: "The Professor Could Care Less What Grade I Get" This is one of those sentences that sound plausible on its face, yet if one sits back to think about it, then it makes absolutely no sense. After all, as Jacobs and Hyman write, "A bad grade is a sign that the professor has not succeeded in teaching that student." Stretched to its logical conclusion, don't you agree that, if everyone in a certain class failed, the professor would not only feel bad but probably also be judged as unable to teach? So clearly, professors want their students to do well, not only for the sake of the students but, as Jacobs and Hyman admit, "for the sake of their own egos."

And, drum roll please...

MYTH #10: "The Professor Will Tell Me All I Need to Know to Get an A" This is in many ways counter-intuitive, and also countervailing to the previous point. Yes, professors want students to do well, but they also do not want give away their secrets of what that means. In fact, as Jacobs and Hyman suggest: "Some professors strongly believe that part of the learning experience is for students to figure out for themselves how to get good grades." So this one is a bit of a head-scratcher, but it is also good training for the vicissitudes of life. Some things are hard to explain, some bosses are hard to figure, sometimes these universal truths are discovered in the context of a college course and what may be a frustrating short-term issue turns into a valuable life-long lesson.

**Tutoring Central
University College
1500 W. 48th Street
Norfolk, VA 23529
(757) 683-6396
www.uc.odu.edu/taa/**

Retrieved from:

<http://www.collegeparents.org/cpa/resource-current-academics-myths.html>

Excerpt from

Professors' Guide to Getting Good Grades in College, co-authored by Lynn F. Jacobs, Ph.D., and Jeremy S. Hyman,





Spring Parents Meeting



SAVE THE DATE

Spring 2008 Parents Meeting

Saturday, March 29th at 10:00 a.m.
2nd floor of the Webb University Center

Guest speakers:

William Quinn

Chief of Old Dominion University Police Department

Sandra M. Waters

Assistant Dean for Advising and Transfer Programs

Look for more information in February and March 2008

<http://uc.odu.edu/familyconnection/>



Spring 2008 Dates

Spring 2008 Dates to Remember

- February 18 Progress Report Grades posted to LEO Online for 000, 100, & 200 level courses
- March 8 Residence Halls close at 10 a.m.
- March 10-15 Spring Break (No classes)
- March 16 Residence Halls reopen at 1:00 p.m.
- March 23 Easter Holiday (No classes)
- March 29 Spring Parents Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
(2nd floor of Webb Center)
Look for more information at www.uc.odu.edu/familyconnection
- April 29 Last day of classes
- April 30 Reading Day (No classes)
- May 1-8 Final Exams
- May 9 Residence Halls close at 10:00 a.m.

To view the full academic calendar, please visit:

http://www.odu.edu/ao/registrar/pdf/acadcalendar/200720_academic_calendar.pdf

