

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2023

Monarch



The launch of a new era

Celebrating with pomp and purpose

Wearing the presidential medallion and holding the University mace, Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., was installed as Old Dominion's ninth president at an investiture ceremony at Chartway Arena on Friday, Oct. 21. He promised ODU will be a "forward-focused institution" that embraces "innovative approaches and visionary changes." The day also featured a Monarchs Give Back charitable event, where students, staff and the president's family packed more than 1,400 bags of food for children in Norfolk, and a drone light show and fireworks display at the Sailing Center. The festivities continued Saturday with the Homecoming parade and football game.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK THOMAS '90
AND NICHOLAS CLARK





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On the cover

President Brian O. Hemphill with Provost Austin Agho (left) and Rector Bruce Bradley after the presidential installation. Photo by Chuck Thomas '90

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Monarch

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Stepping forward toward greatness

Greetings, Monarch Nation!

As we conclude the academic year, we reflect on the proud traditions of Old Dominion University! We also prepare for our bold and promising future, which will be made possible through the individual determination and collective work of our talented students, world-class faculty, dedicated staff and passionate alumni.

Our future has been defined by the comprehensive engagement of campus and community stakeholders following more than a year of in-depth review and careful planning. These significant efforts have resulted in the creation and implementation of a new strategic plan, "Forward-Focused: Where Innovation Meets Possibilities."

Fully focused on our worthwhile mission of education, research and service, we are continuing to meet the growing needs of our campus, our community, the Commonwealth and beyond. Without question, our footprint and impact are expanding. Indeed, this is an exciting time to be an integral part of Monarch Nation and play a vital role in bringing our vision to reality. Together, we are poised to achieve greater levels of success for current and future generations of Monarchs!

With Monarch Pride,

Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.
President



@BrianOHemphill

Monarchs keep giving back



Pomp and spirit filled the air last fall with the inauguration of President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., and Homecoming festivities the following day. But the weekend wasn't just about President Hemphill and the University.

It also featured a significant philanthropic event, called Monarchs Give Back. More than 200 students, faculty, staff and alumni – including the president and his family – gathered at the Mitchum Basketball Performance Center to fill 1,400 bags with food that had been donated for students in Norfolk Public Schools.

First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill, Ph.D., who spearheaded the initiative, said, “We knew that this historic event for Old Dominion University could be utilized as a unique occasion to give back.”

In some ways, “Monarchs Give Back” also serves as the theme of this issue. I’m struck by how many Monarchs on these pages are helping others.

You’ll read about an alum who leads a nonprofit – Chris Tan (M.P.A. ’99), the president and CEO of the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. Tan’s goal is to serve people in the food line and, ultimately, to get them out of that line.

We also trace the journey of Darlene Taylor from Raytheon program manager to nonprofit founder to the first elected Black mayor of her hometown, Crisfield, Maryland. “My heart is for this town,” she says. “It always has been.”

You’ll meet two alumni supporting Ukraine in different ways. As president of the Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association, Anna Makhorkina (M.A. ’00, Ph.D. ’07) is organizing rallies and networking with politicians on behalf of refugees. Harry Minium ’77, our senior executive writer, recounts his life-changing experience helping feed Ukrainian refugees in Berlin last summer.

Finally, I want to recognize our copy editor, Janet Molinaro (M.A. ’14), who retired in December after 21 years at Old Dominion. Her scrutiny of every word enhanced this magazine – and saved me from enormous embarrassment. She also was devoted to Monarch service, always volunteering at Week of Welcome events and commencements. I have no doubt she will continue helping the community.

Let me know how you’re giving back, and we’ll share some examples in future issues.

Philip Walzer
Monarch Magazine and University Editor

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Hampton Roads Chapter

The summer 2022 issue of Monarch magazine recently received two awards from the Hampton Roads chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Read our online
exclusives at
odu.edu/monarchmag

The answers *revealed*



We tested your Monarch geographic skills in the last issue. The winner was Brant Manoso '21, who got 17 letters right. His secret (aside from a friend's help): "I used to walk around campus a lot playing Pokemon GO." Here's the full list.

PHOTOS BY SHARA WEBER

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- C - Inside Constant Hall*
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Together, EVMS and ODU will magnify their impact



President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., and Eastern Virginia Medical School President, Provost and Dean Alfred Abubamad, M.D., at a Jan. 30 town hall.

PHOTO BY CHUCK THOMAS '90

Old Dominion University and Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) have much in common — a strong history of collaboration; renowned experts in their respective disciplines; complementary cultures; proven track records of emphasizing diversity, equity and inclusion; and a deep commitment to making the community a better place to live.

Separately, both institutions have storied histories with profound legacies. Collectively, they have made a united commitment to address the alarming health disparities facing our region. Toward that end, ODU and EVMS are pursuing a strategic integration that will offer the largest portfolio of health sciences degrees in the commonwealth.

“Coming together as a comprehensive health sciences center will allow our impact to be magnified exponentially,” said ODU President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.

Among the benefits will be an expanded pipeline of sorely needed health care workers. According to Old Dominion’s 2022 State of the Region report, an anticipated 23 percent of the nursing workforce in Virginia will

retire within the next decade. Meanwhile, by 2030, almost one in five Hampton Roads residents will be 65 or older, increasing the strain on a system already facing workforce shortages. A strategic integration will create an estimated 2,000 graduates annually, with 1,100 staying in the region.

Meanwhile, the combined entities could help turn the tide to decrease the region’s alarming health disparities. In Virginia, Blacks live an average of 4 years less than whites and are 3.4 times more likely to be hospitalized with heart failure. An integrated academic health care center will be poised to tackle many of the barriers to care — including systemic social inequities, an inadequate supply of providers from underrepresented groups and difficulties navigating the system.

The creation of a collaborative health sciences center will also magnify the institutions’ already significant economic impact to the commonwealth. ODU’s Frank Reidy Research Center for Bioelectrics, for example, already has developed a technology that utilizes nanosecond electric pulses to

treat a range of dermatologic conditions and tumors.

The commercialization of this discovery to spinout company Pulse Biosciences — a first for ODU — showcases how a university-developed technology can reach the marketplace.

Similarly, EVMS partnered with Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters and a life sciences firm to establish a spinoff company that could save infant lives and revolutionize the care of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. The company, ReAlta Life Sciences, received fast-track designation last summer from the Federal Drug Administration to expedite review of one of its novel treatments.

Bringing together ODU — with its R1 research classification — and EVMS — and its powerhouse team — will attract additional research opportunities and increase jobs. Combined with planned investments to build a stronger, more diverse workforce, this proposed integration could create generational change, propel the economy and improve lives for years to come.



Nursing Professor Carolyn Rutledge in front of mobile health clinic. Photo by Nicholas Clark

A boost for local health care

The School of Nursing opened a **mobile health clinic** in Southampton County in April, expanding health care for residents and training opportunities for students.

The clinic, which received a four-year \$4 million federal grant, operates out of a customized van. It provides a spectrum of care, including physical therapy, dental hygiene, mental health and telehealth services. The clinic “will improve access to quality healthcare for our neediest residents,” said Karl Heck, president and CEO of Franklin Southampton Economic Development.

A leap for data science

Old Dominion University in February launched a School of Data Science, uniting multiple disciplines from mathematics to criminal justice to expand its work in the rapidly growing field. “This significant step forward in both teaching and research will position ODU to build upon our substantial expertise and proven success in data science,” President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., said.

The school is based in Monarch Hall, with a branch to open later this year in Virginia Beach’s Town Center. The school will also aim to expand research partnerships with federal laboratories.

Leadership appointments

Jaime Hunt was named Old Dominion’s vice president for communications and chief marketing officer. Hunt previously held similar positions at Miami University in Ohio and Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina. She also regularly contributes columns to forbes.com and hosts the twice-a-month podcast “Confessions of a Higher Ed CMO.” Hunt has also served in leadership roles in public relations, marketing, digital strategy and media relations at three other institutions.



Three-time alumna **Krista Harrell ‘01 (M.S.Ed. ‘03, Ph.D. ‘12)** joined Old Dominion in December as associate vice president of alumni relations, overseeing all aspects of alumni engagement. She hopes to expand alumni chapters and strengthen connections with alumni and students. Harrell previously served as assistant vice president for student affairs and Title IX coordinator at the University of South Alabama. Read more about Harrell and her team in the winter issue.



First negotiation school opens

Local real estate executive Dick Thurmond ‘76 donated \$6 million last year to create the Thurmond School of Professional Sales and Negotiations, which is believed to be the first school of its kind in the world. The school offers undergraduate degrees in negotiations and professional sales, as well as graduate courses, certificates and workshops. “We’re providing practical skills training, and we want everyone to benefit from this,” said Aaron Arndt, a professor of marketing who leads the school.

A hand holding a crystal ball that reflects a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The reflection in the crystal ball is clear and detailed, showing the sun, clouds, and the horizon line. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sky with a gradient from blue to orange.

Monarchs look into the future

Old Dominion University has gained regional prominence for its comprehensive annual economic and real estate forecasts.

Here, we go beyond business to ask 14 Monarchs – both faculty members and alumni – to predict what awaits us in their areas of expertise. Look for increased accommodations and flexibility for workers and college students but also more cyber and terrorist attacks. Technology will keep making inroads – from fitness to food – and ChatGPT might provide some surprising benefits. But that won't lessen the need for “human interaction” and “gathering places.”

In the restaurant and hospitality industry, I predict an increased use of AI to conduct cooking classes – at least that’s what I’ve been thinking about! I think we’ll see more of an emphasis on employee wellness, comprehensive benefits packages and mental health coverage. I believe the industry will also display an increased awareness on the environmental impact of food and menu items and animal cruelty – with a focus on chicken.

– **Amy Brandwein '93,**
chef/owner,
Centrolina restaurant,
Washington

The space industry is growing rapidly, as we see increased utility in our everyday lives. Newer entrants like SpaceX’s StarLink show the world the capabilities space infrastructure has to offer. The financing from government programs like Artemis, the capital from the investment community and the number of launches are increasing, while the cost to launch is going down. This provides a lot more opportunities for business growth. As the traffic in orbit grows, so will the need for infrastructure to track, maintain and keep it all operating safely.

– **Eric Ingram '13, CEO, SCOUT**

Student Life departments will have to provide more services to students to prevent tragedies such as sexual assaults and hazing deaths as well as aid in the recovery if they do occur. They also may have to pivot drastically to keep up with the needs of today’s college student (i.e., remote, first-generation, veteran, international, those with disabilities). That might include mandatory ongoing mental health screenings and even a universal process to orient new members of all Greek-lettered organizations.”

- **Kyonna Henry '09 (M.Ed. '12), director of student life and engagement, University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus**

I expect organizations will continue to make accommodations regarding telework, flexible workspaces and work times, and what’s called “working from wherever.” I think this will be based on a renewed emphasis on worker well-being, more inclusive organizations, and retaining top employees.

– **Andrew A. Bennett, associate professor of management**

Fitness and technology have grown hand in hand over the past 10 years. I see wearable tracking devices becoming more and more detailed in what they can pick up about the body. A device accurately measuring a person's hydration level or determining how much more sleep they need to be at 100% is on the horizon. This type of information, from a watch or a ring, could provide valuable information to athletes as well as the average person. It will change the health and fitness field forever.

– **Jeremy Moore '10, studio operator/manager,
Jim White Fitness & Nutrition Studios**

It took the pandemic for society to recognize the impact telehealth could have on improving healthcare access. Post-COVID, most providers and patients are continuing to demand telehealth options, while some providers have removed it totally from their practice offerings. Thanks to the voice of healthcare professionals who learned to do it properly, telehealth has overcome most legal and regulatory barriers. It is here to stay. But to fulfill its potential, it must be data-driven.

– **Carolyn Rutledge,
professor and associate
chair, and Tina Gustin,
associate professor,
School of Nursing**

I expect more instances of stochastic terrorism, which consists of statistically probable acts of violence arising from the demonization of a person or group. Our nation remains highly polarized. Our citizens continue to mistrust our institutions and see many of our leaders as illegitimate. Added to this kindling is the fuel of hate speech and disinformation, which continue to plague our social media platforms. There will be more high-profile acts of violence in our country, though we cannot predict how they will occur.

– **Roderick Graham,
associate professor,
sociology and criminal justice**

I predict a re-emergence of the importance of place in both our communities and our work. With some two years of pandemic-driven disconnectedness and isolation, gathering places of every sort stand to remind us of the value of social relationships and human interactions. From workspaces to restaurants and events, as people re-engage in shared experiences, so, too, will we see a collective improvement in our health, well-being and sense of community.

– **Drew Ungvarsky '02, founder and CEO, Grow**

Professors will become more flexible in how they structure their courses. The pandemic has taught us how to reimagine not only how we teach but how we meet students' complex needs. Examples include providing flexible dates to complete assignments and exams (students may not progress in a course at the same pace) and allowing for mental health/wellness days (students need breathers every once in a while). Faculty will also create more individualized course plans for students struggling with personal issues.

– **Ingrid Whitaker, associate professor, sociology and criminal justice**

The wine industry will continue pushing wine lovers to try new things outside their comfort zone. With so many regions and varietals to discover and with the growth of so many new platforms, people will start to think beyond what's on the shelf. Wine is made all over the world, and being able to experience those places without leaving home is a big deal – especially since the recession could limit travel over the next few years.

– **Shayla Varnado '09, founder and CEO, Black Girls Wine and Society**

The future of ChatGPT and other Large Language Models will improve contextual understanding and conversational flow. I expect these models to evolve rapidly with ways to understand emotional context, such as tone, sentiment, sarcasm and humor, which can be difficult even for a human. From a negative side, these same models can rapidly deploy and scale influence campaigns for online disinformation operations. I believe they will also revolutionize the area of human-machine interactions with capabilities like conversational AI and bring us closer to a real “KITT” from the 1980s TV show “Knight Rider.”

– **Sampath Jayarathna, assistant professor of computer science**

We foresee a strong reawakening of people wanting not just to *hear* music, but to *experience* it. This means a surge of attendance at live concerts and performances. They'll see more multi-disciplinary, genre-crossing performances, incorporating electronic, jazz or classical idioms as well as video lights and social media. The arts will continue addressing difficult and challenging topics, creating innovative spaces for meaningful discourse.

– **Executive director and faculty members of F. Ludwig Diehn School of Music**

Real estate is still recovering from the pandemic and subject to the uncertain global geo-political environment. The fundamentals for Hampton Roads, however, are more robust than in many parts of the country. With a solid underlying local economic base, some real estate sectors, especially industrial, have been performing strongly. The office sector has also not been as affected by the shift to home-working as many other markets. The residential market has seen the impact of rising borrowing costs, but tighter supply has prevented the price declines seen elsewhere.

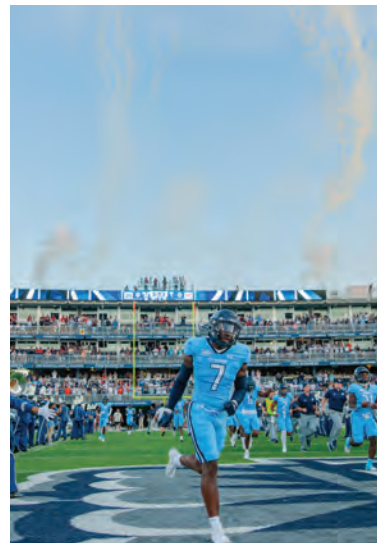
– **Simon Stevenson, Robert M. Stanton Endowed Chair of Real Estate & Economic Development**

Cybersecurity will continue to affect our lives, with increasing ransomware attacks, expansion of the attack surface as more devices are connected to the internet, and the use of adversarial Machine Learning in cyberattacks parallel to advances in AI. We should be ready to see the increasing role of geopolitics and state-affiliated actors, which could even compromise critical infrastructure. On the bright side, though, 2022 helped the government and industry recognize the gravity of the situation, which will lead to improved readiness, with changes in organizational culture and a growing workforce.

– **Saltuk Karahan, interim director, School of Cybersecurity**

Monarchs down Hokies once more

As ODU athletics writer Harry Minium '77 put it, "Lightning does strike twice." The Monarchs upset Virginia Tech, 20-17, in their football home opener on Sept. 2. Four years earlier, ODU also defeated the Hokies, 49-35. This time, ODU won on a 74-yard drive powered by quarterback Hayden Wolff (11) in the game's final three minutes. Blake Watson finished it off with a run into the end zone. The Monarchs, who ended the season 3-9, played to a sellout crowd, which swarmed the field after the game. Hudson, the team's unofficial mascot, also quietly rooted them on.



PHOTOS BY
CHUCK THOMAS '90
AND NICHOLAS CLARK



Ukraine



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS CLARK

Makhorkina wants people to learn about her homeland

BY PHILIP WALZER

As president of the Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association, **Anna Makhorkina (M.A. '00, Ph.D. '07)** mostly focused on community celebrations promoting the country's centuries-long history and culture.

Her role became more urgent after the war started. She helped organize rallies in support of Ukrainian independence. She was interviewed by local TV stations. She lobbied members of Congress to help refugees and went to Washington to advocate for continued support.

"My heart hurts for all of Ukraine," Makhorkina said, "and I worry about my parents' safety." Her parents live in Lviv in western Ukraine. That part of the country is farthest from Russia, so damage has been less severe, though the city, like the rest of Ukraine, has suffered extended power outages. "It's relatively safe," she said, "except for the occasional missile flying by."

Makhorkina left Ukraine for graduate school in 1998. She chose Old Dominion, where she earned master's and doctoral degrees in

international studies, for the program's strong reputation and connections to NATO.

She later taught international relations and ran a translation business. After that, she became assistant director of the ODU Peninsula Center and associate director for regional transfer centers. In January, Makhorkina was appointed to the new position of associate director of transfer initiatives, helping guide students to degree completion and academic success. What's most satisfying, she said, is when graduates she worked with call to thank her for her guidance after they get their first job.

When the war broke out, "I was not surprised but disappointed," Makhorkina, 46, said. "There was peace in Europe for almost 80 years. It's unacceptable that it was so brutally disrupted."

She believes "there can be no negotiation unless Russia completely pulls out of the country. Ukraine's sovereignty is inviolable."

She appreciates the strong U.S. support for Ukraine, though she wishes it had come sooner. Makhorkina, who became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2005, also marvels at the kindness and generosity of Americans. What else does she think they can do? Write politicians on behalf of Ukraine. Learn more about the country. ("It's a huge economic powerhouse. It's also beautiful, with mountains and lakes and forests the world is not seeing right now.")

Her degrees, she said, prepared her for her expanded duties at the association – giving interviews, explaining Ukraine's significance. "When I talk, people listen. They know I know what I'm talking about."

The thread that links her job at ODU and her activism for Ukraine, she said, is the belief that "you can truly make a difference in somebody's life."

Makhorkina and her two children climbed Ukraine's tallest mountain, Mount Hoverla, in the Carpathians in the summer of 2021. She's confident they will return. "I'm optimistic the war will be over soon. We will have a huge Ukrainian celebration then, and everyone is invited."

For two students, the worry is constant

BY HARRY MINIUM '77

Natalya Malenko '19 received a frantic phone call from her mother the morning of Feb. 24, 2022, telling her the Russians were shelling Malenko's hometown of Mykolaiv.

"My mom called to say goodbye," Malenko said. "She was sure she was going to be killed."

After Malenko hung up, she collapsed to the floor. It was the most painful, helpless feeling she's ever experienced. "I was crying, but I wouldn't even call it crying," she said. "I was in agony. I did not sleep for days."

A former Monarch women's tennis standout who received a bachelor's degree in psychology, Malenko is now enrolled in ODU's M.B.A. program. She relied on classmates, professors, former teammates and the local Ukrainian community to get her through the next 10 months.

She took incompletes in her classes because "I was not capable of focusing on school."

She's sponsored fundraisers for Ukraine and grown accustomed to the new normal – knowing her parents and other relatives could die at any moment. Mykolaiv still gets shelled constantly. Her grandmother hasn't had running water since March and often goes long periods without electricity.

Malenko, who lives in Virginia Beach, is back in school and on track to graduate in 2024.

"I think if anything, this has made me stronger," she said.

"Since it happened, you can see the unity in the Ukrainian community. If we can go through this and survive, we can go through anything."

It's become a habit for junior **Yuliia Khrystiuk** ever since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Just before she goes to sleep, she checks news sites on her phone, especially for updates on Vinnytsia, her hometown. Then she says a prayer that her family and friends will survive the night.

The next morning, she checks to see when her mother was last online, texts her, rechecks the news and texts her friends to see if they are OK.

Every hour of every day, the soccer player worries about her family, which is under the constant threat of missile or bomb attacks.

"Even though my city is not the worst, it's really hard to go to sleep. And then you wake up in the morning and you just hope that nothing has happened."

She's 5,000 miles from Ukraine and feels helpless and guilty at times, especially after she learned a family she knows lost a son. "It's especially hard being here and knowing that I can't help," Khrystiuk said. "I can't even really feel the same that they do because I'm so far away."

She's tried to pour her energy into classwork and soccer. Last spring, ODU and William & Mary played an exhibition in which both sides wore T-shirts adorned with Ukrainian flags.

"I'm grateful for all of the people at ODU," Khrystiuk said. "I know my teammates have tried to understand what I'm going through. Everyone here has tried to support me."



Natalya Malenko '19



Yuliia Khrystiuk



Helping Ukrainian refugees helped restore my soul

BY HARRY MINIUM '77

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HARRY MINIUM '77



Under a vast tent in the shadows of Berlin's central train station on a hot afternoon, a dozen or so German volunteers and I had just finished a six-hour shift serving chicken soup, turkey sandwiches and coffee to refugees from Ukraine.

Then we heard excited voices and footsteps. Hundreds of haggard refugees started pouring in. I could tell they were fresh out of the war zone because of the fear and desperation in their eyes.

We put our vests back on and returned to the serving area.

This tent in the middle of the city has been a crossroads for nearly a million refugees and hundreds of volunteers. It's a place where trauma and grief, and histories global and personal, intersect. And where I spent the month of June last year.

Like many Americans, I was outraged by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and slaughter of civilians. At Old Dominion University, I met Ukrainian athletes and heard about the suffering of their families. I wanted to help.

But I also had come to Berlin to relieve my own pain. My daughter died 22 years ago, and her death haunts me every day.

Most refugees we saw were women, children and older men. It's the children who capture your heart. When I smiled or joked with them, most eventually smiled back. Some never did.

On my third day in Berlin, a woman who'd worked for years with Syrian refugees approached me. She wore a purple hijab and

a face mask, but her brown eyes told me she was smiling.

"You're from ODU?" she said, looking at my shirt. "My best friend went to ODU."

She asked to remain anonymous, so I will call her Mary. She was the heartbeat of the volunteers, keeping everyone grounded with her quick wit and positive persona, even on the toughest days.

We bonded in part because she, too, was grieving. She still mourns her father, who died a few years ago.

Like me, she was heartbroken by the division she sees in the world. "But here, in the tent, every day, every single day, restores my faith in humanity," she said. "You see so many people here, from so many backgrounds, people who are beautiful on the inside, people who've shown so much kindness. It gives me hope."

In the month I was in Berlin, Mary became my inspiration. We belong to different religions, but we both know the God of Abraham led us to work at the welcome center.

Meeting Mary was no accident. Her kindness helped pull me out of a dark place.

I'm planning to return to Germany in June and will stay a month. I have signed up to help prepare food for homeless people. I'll reunite with so many of my German friends, whose goodness last summer helped restore my spirit.

Harry Minium '77 is senior executive writer at Old Dominion.



AI RESEARCHER WINS TOP STATE AWARD

Academic boundaries have never stopped Khan Iftekharuddin.

BY DAVID SIMPSON

“Interesting discovery happens at the intersection of disciplines,” says the professor of electrical and computer engineering.

That’s why he collaborates with faculty members in disciplines from math to psychology. Iftekharuddin reaches beyond Old Dominion University to initiate partnerships with other institutions, including Eastern Virginia Medical School and Jefferson Lab. He also carves out research opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students.

His broad-based approach, usually employing image analysis and artificial intelligence, has had wide-ranging applications, with the potential to benefit people with cancer and autism spectrum disorder, among others.

This year, Iftekharuddin’s prodigious contributions earned him an Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. He was ODU’s 36th recipient of the honor.

“He is one of those rare faculty members who is able to continuously excel in all aspects of our mission,” said Kenneth Fridley, dean of the Batten College of Engineering and Technology.

Iftekharuddin’s response to the award characteristically reflected his commitment to teamwork.

“This embodies the hard work of my students, colleagues and my family, who have supported my journey and my quest for the greater good through scholarship over so many years,” said Iftekharuddin, who joined ODU in 2011 to lead its Vision Lab.

There, he helped pioneer a novel approach, using MRI images, to target glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. The work, which has won two grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), helps identify abnormal brain tissue and predict not only tumor growth but also the patient’s likelihood of surviving.

In another project, his team, working with a humanoid robot, identified expressions on the faces of children with autism spectrum disorder and shared the information with them to increase their comfort in social settings.

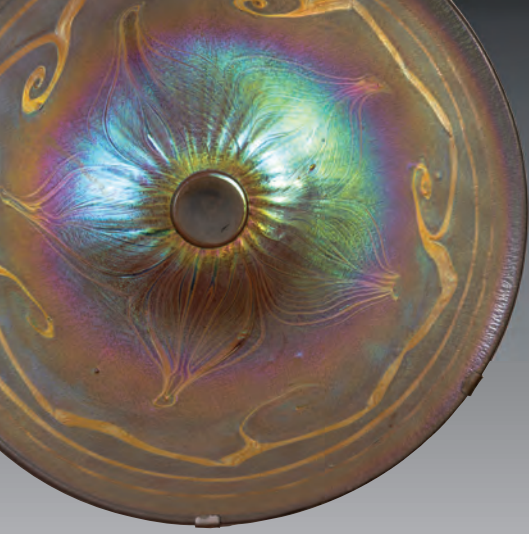
He will also be the principal investigator for a recently awarded \$2.6 million NIH grant to study brain imaging and other data to help identify risk factors in people with diseases including opioid use disorder and Parkinson’s. That project offers another example of collaboration: The ODU group will work with colleagues in the Wright Regional Center for Clinical and Translational Research – a joint venture of Old Dominion, Virginia Commonwealth University, Eastern Virginia Medical School and Virginia State University.



Photo by Sherry DiBari

Iftekharuddin is also the associate dean of research and innovation for the College of Engineering and the Batten Endowed Chair in Machine Learning. He previously served as chair of the electrical and computer engineering department and interim dean of the college. At ODU, his honors have included the Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Achievement Award, the Researcher of the Year Award and the Batten college’s Most Inspiring Faculty Award.

“Dr. Iftekharuddin lives excellence in research and scholarship,” doctoral student Megan Witherow ’18 said. “He encourages us to make novel and rigorous technical contributions but never allows us to lose sight of the big picture and broader impacts.”



Louis Comfort Tiffany,
"Favrile 'Cypriote' Plaque"

A TOUCH

BY PHILIP WALZER

For years, Leah and Richard Waitzer and Carolyn and Dick Barry traveled together to find glass treasures. Now many of the Waitzers' acquisitions have found a home in the museum that the Barrys created.

A donation of 165 works from the Waitzer Foundation last year has more than doubled the Barry Art Museum's collection of glass sculptures.

The artists represented include studio glass pioneer Harvey Littleton, Italian sculptor Lino Tagliapietra and the young American artist April Surgent.

"The Waitzers were visionary and set a precedent for art appreciation across the region," said Charlotte Potter Kasic, executive director of the museum. "Their contributions allow us to tell deeper stories, starting with 19th-century designers such as Louis Comfort Tiffany."

Jutta-Annette Page, the museum's founding director, said: "The gift also expands the international representation of contemporary artists, many of whom

played pivotal roles in the development of studio glass, providing significant cultural weight to the museum's collection."

The Waitzers' son Brad, the president of the foundation, said his parents and the Barrys "traveled and collected together over many years."

Their trips began in the '90s. "We enjoyed the thrill of the hunt with them," Carolyn Barry said. Her husband, Dick, described the Waitzers as "enthusiastic, decisive and knowledgeable collectors, and they taught us a great deal."

The donated works appear in an exhibition, "PERSPECTIVES: Modern and Contemporary Glass from the Waitzer Collection," on view through Dec. 31. Page, who curated the exhibition, described the Waitzer donation as "a transformative gift that broadens the historical, cultural and educational scope of the museum's glass collection."

The Barry Art Museum is at 43rd Street and Hampton Boulevard. Free parking is available in the 43rd Street Garage.

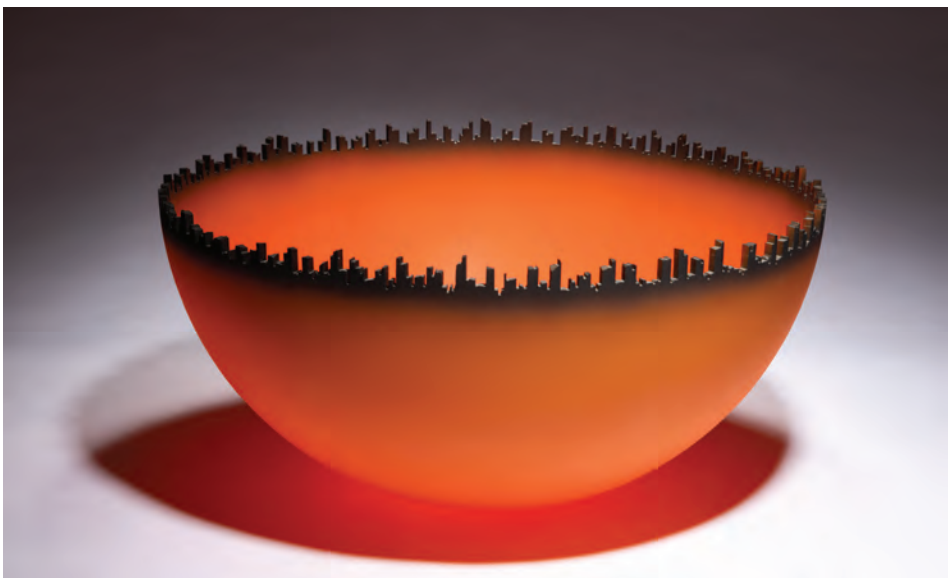
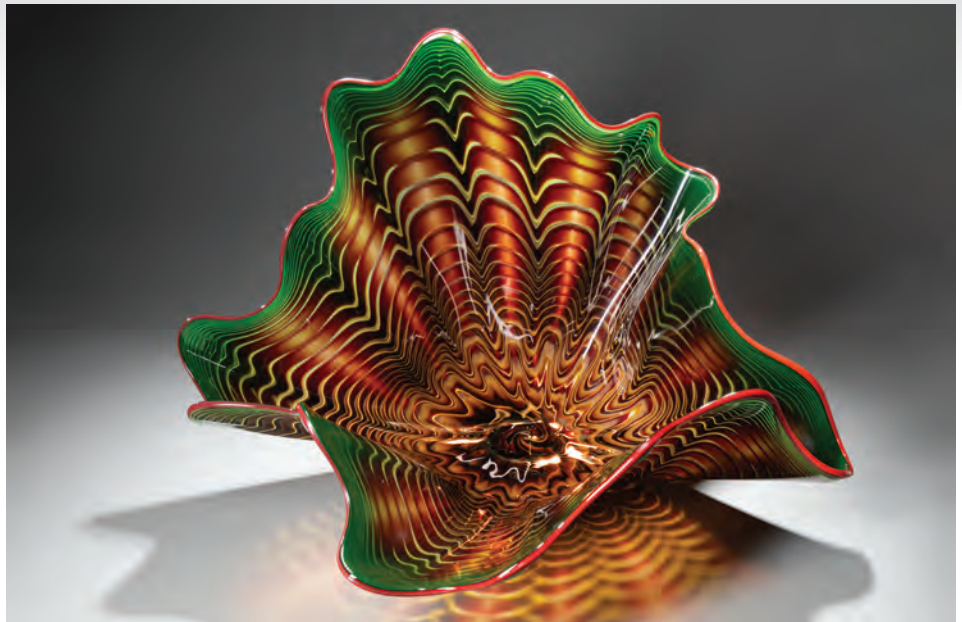
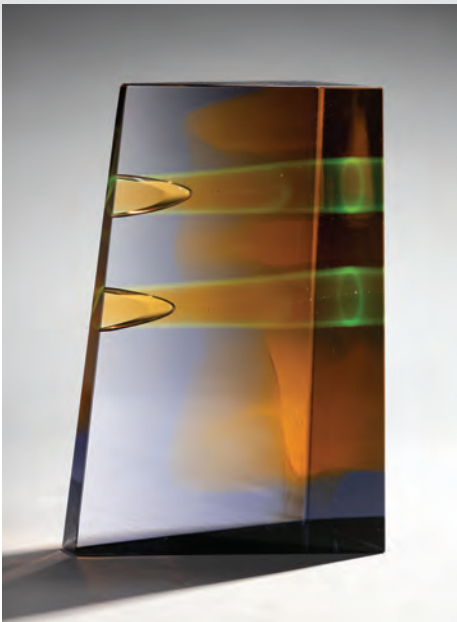
The Waitzer family home
PHOTO BY NICHOLAS CLARK 2022



OF GLASS

Clockwise from top left: Mark Peiser, "Untitled"; Toots Zynsky, "Spring Order"; Thomas McGlauchin, "Untitled Sculpture"; Dale Chihuly, "Sepia Persian Single with Red Lip Wrap"; Kimiake Higuchi, "Vase with Daffodils"; and Jay Musler, "Cityscape Bowl."

PHOTOS OF ARTWORK BY PATRICK CAGNEY, 2022



Kable says there's no 'I' at FBI center

BY PHILIP WALZER



PHOTO COURTESY OF FBI

His title was director of the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center. But Charles H. "Sandy" Kable '90 stresses it wasn't "a one-person show."

"I claim no credit whatsoever for doing anything unilaterally," said Kable, who recently retired after directing the center for six years. "We don't do anything alone in the bureau. If we arrest anybody, we do it as a team. I'll partner with pretty much anybody willing to partner with us."

He oversaw more than 600 people at the Terrorist Screening Center. But the operation extends far beyond the FBI.

The center was created after 9/11 to improve communication among federal agencies about threats. It regularly interacts with representatives in such departments as Homeland Security, Defense and State – as well as foreign governments – to update the federal terrorism watchlist and relay the changes.

Kable traces his comfort with collaboration to his days at Old Dominion University, when he was an RA at Mid-Rise. "We had 20 guys on the hallway," Kable, 55, said. "Each had a different personality, different likes and dislikes, and we all had to get along and play well together."

Then came eight years in the Navy, where he served in the Persian Gulf and Somalia as a surface warfare officer and, as a lieutenant, commissioned the USS Milius, which Kable described as "the most advanced fighting platform at the time."

"Engineering specialists had to support operations specialists, who were supporting combat systems specialists," he said. "I've grown up on teams."

At the center, "we have tremendous people, including contractors, doing a variety of jobs, and it takes everybody to do it."

The son of a foreign service officer, Kable grew up "all over the world," living in seven countries. "It was a great foundation for seeing things through other people's eyes and learning different cultures," he said.

His family moved to Herndon, Virginia, before his senior year in high school. He was drawn to ODU because of its ROTC program and proximity to Naval Station Norfolk.

He majored in political science and minored in history. In addition to being an RA, Kable joined the Navy ROTC and Kappa Delta Rho. “The education I got – from the price point as well as the commissioning opportunity – was terrific,” Kable said, “and I most certainly capitalized on it.”

He went straight into the Navy after graduating. That had been a dream of his since he’d been a boy. But he had another dream, inspired while watching the TV show “The F.B.I.” with his grandfather one night. “I said, ‘I want to be an FBI agent,’” Kable recalled. “He looked at me and said, ‘You do that.’”

Kable did in 2000, starting as an agent in the San Francisco Field Office specializing in counterespionage. His other positions before his appointment to lead the Terrorist Screening Center included chief of the Counterespionage Section and special agent in charge of counterintelligence at the Washington Field Office.

He summarized the goal of the Terrorist Screening Center as “getting ahead of the threat.”

“The purpose of this place is to get to terrorists in their planning and resource phase before they get operational,” Kable said. “We share information on people who are moving around the world – who are their associates, who are they talking to, who’s financing them.”

His most satisfying achievement was the 2008 convictions of brothers Chi and Tai Mak for attempting to smuggle sensitive military technology to China.

Kable’s No. 1 security tip for Americans is “simply paying attention.”

“If you stand on a random street corner, 50% of the people have their faces buried in their phones. It makes a purse-snatching that much easier.

“We need to slow down a little, keep our heads up, and see what’s going on in the community.”

“That helped us start talking about Chinese intelligence,” he said. “The information could have told them where we were going in R&D (research and development) and certain technical aspects of the weaponry we were developing. I know the Chinese navy would have attempted to use this against my brothers and sisters on the sea. That made it personal for me.”

After 9/11, Kable said, the FBI engineered “a massive shift in resources from a focus on domestic criminal activity to international terrorism.” But “because of the effects of Jan. 6, the bureau has increased its focus on domestic terrorism in the last few years.” The partnerships forged by the center, he said, provided “additional bandwidth” to target both.

A Fox News article in 2016 called Kable “tough and no nonsense.” That’s partly true, he said.

“The bad guys would think I’m tough,” he said. “Here at the Terrorist Center and hopefully my teammates over the last 22 years would describe me as a good guy, fair, a great encourager. But at the end of the day, we’re always going to follow the facts to where they lead, regardless of who likes them.”

Afsoun “Affi” Cambier, the chief counsel in the center’s law unit, also sees both sides of Kable.

“He is one of the kindest, most compassionate human beings I have ever met,” she said. “However, don’t let his demeanor fool you. He is no ‘softie.’ He is effective, knows FBI business like no one else and is not afraid to make the hard decisions. He is the perfect protector of America and its people.”



PHOTO BY SHARA WEBER



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES KABLE

Above: Kable during his tenure on the USS Milius. Top: A piece of the World Trade Center, named the Trident, stands outside the Terrorist Screening Center in Vienna, Virginia, as a daily reminder of the importance of its mission.

B HAM'S JAM:

He composes and produces
for big names in music

BY JANICE RHOSHALLE LITTLEJOHN

Brandon Hamlin isn't the star of his Instagram page. His work is.

You'll catch glimpses of the BMI Award-winning songwriter-producer on tour or in the studio, but most of his posts are dedicated to the music. Because he's been about the music from the beginning.

Growing up in Portsmouth – his father, Jimmy, was an R&B instrumentalist; his mother, Valerie, a gospel singer – Hamlin gravitated to keyboards, drums and saxophone. He sang in the choir and wrote songs for church talent shows. But being in the spotlight wasn't his jam.

"There was a moment when I thought about being an artist," Hamlin says from his apartment in Los Angeles. "But I just like the process of creating way more." He's soft-spoken and serious throughout the interview until he smiles; then his whole face lights up.

Hamlin enrolled at Old Dominion University in 2007, eager to learn music theory. "He was really tuned into the music and looking for answers, and very curious and driven to hone his skills," recalls John Toomey, a professor of music.

Hamlin accumulated 124 credit hours over five years, but when he found out he needed more to graduate, he left in 2012 to launch his career. He started as an intern at Tree Sound Studios in Atlanta. Troy Mitchell '11, a friend from ODU, persuaded Hamlin to move to L.A. in 2013. He got there

PHOTOS BY NOÉ MONTES

with \$300 from his mother and crashed on Mitchell's couch.

That summer, Hamlin – who goes by “B Ham” – won the L.A. showcase in the iStandard Celebrity Producer Beat Battles. Buoyed by the triumph, Hamlin made the rounds of major music publishing houses – Capitol, Def Jam, Sony, BMI – to see if any would sign him. “They all listened to a couple of songs I had coming out, and they all said no.”

But Atlantic Records producer Shawn Barron encouraged B Ham to keep making beats at his studio. For a few years, Hamlin wrote and produced songs for up-and-coming artists while couch-surfing around L.A. and eating dollar meals from McDonald's, hoping to catch a break.

Little did he know that one of Barron's interns had sent some of his beats to Cash Money Records VP Joshua Berkman. “And one day I was playing beats for this artist, and Josh came in. And he was like, ‘Are you B Ham? ... Man, I'm a fan!’”

The same week, Bergman introduced him to the record producer Dr. Luke, “and he signed me on the spot in his kitchen,” Hamlin says, his face alight.

By 2017, B Ham was getting high-profile sessions and releasing major hits with Lil' Wayne, Doja Cat, Kim Petras and Saweetie. He finally got his own place – and an Uber Eats account. Then a couple of firsts: an appearance on the Billboard Hot 100 and a Dove Award nomination for “Brighter Day,” recorded by Earl Bynum and composed by Hamlin and Darius Mines '13.

“We were nominated in 2018, but we wrote it in 2011 after summer break,” says Mines, founder of a boutique music publishing and production house in Nashville, Tennessee. “We sent it to Earl, and he said, ‘Oh, I want to use it!’ Then it kinda went by the wayside. And the years went by, and then I got this text from him at 2 in the morning that we had been nominated, and it ended up being for that song.”

It was a watershed moment for the ODU duo. “To be able to stand out in the marketplace really solidified our



relationship,” Mines says. “I knew he would always be somebody I looked up to and would always want to collaborate with.”

Valerie Hamlin admires her son's willingness to work through the tough stuff.

“When he first came to California, he called me to talk things through,” she says. “And I remember telling him, ‘If the music business is where you want to be – because I have seen the music business behind the scenes – you're going to see some stuff happen behind closed doors; you're going to see what people are doing. And if you can deal with that on tour, then you'll be able to deal with the music business.’ And he decided to stick with it.”

It's paying off.

2022 saw more firsts for Hamlin: KARA's K-pop single “When I Move”; a BMI Award for “Nobody's Love” with Adam Levine's

Maroon 5, and a platinum record for Chris Brown's “Questions.” He sent the award and record to his mother. It's the kind of selfless gesture one would expect from this gentle man who fancies The Dark Knight as his alter ego.

“I've always liked superheroes, and I'm into Harry Potter and stuff like that,” Hamlin, 33, says with a sly grin. “I like the guy who is the outsider who ends up becoming great. I just feel like I can relate to that story. Not necessarily saving the world from evil. It's more about being not normal but using your abilities in a positive way.”

Janice Rhoshalle Littlejohn is a Los Angeles-based journalist, essayist, author and screenwriter. Having grown up performing in church choirs, Littlejohn now sings around the house, in the shower and in her car to anyone within earshot. Follow her on Instagram @janicerhoshalle.

When asked which trait he most wants to change, Hamlin says: “I do therapy every week, and one thing that we are working on is my overall confidence. I wish I was more confident. I keep to myself. I'm not really that much of a people person. So that's probably what I dislike most about myself.”

And the trait he most dislikes in others? “Not being able to set accountability for their actions.”

Jones has brewed a sparkling career in beer

BY PHILIP WALZER



Every contract Marty Jones '95 signs with a client has a nonnegotiable line. But it's not about money or time.

"I put a clause in there that says you have to be willing to do things that may be funny and irreverent and essential to the success of the campaign," says Jones, who lives in Denver.

Jones promotes beer. He coined such slogans as "Contents Under Pleasure" (for New Belgium Brewing) and "Great Minds Drink Alike" (for Great Divide Brewing).

He also was behind one of the funniest TV ads for a presidential candidate. In it, John Hickenlooper, a former brewery owner and now U.S. senator from Colorado, deadpanned: "I understand America's crisis of division. We can't let hazy IPAs and pastry stout divide our nation any longer."

Hickenlooper dropped out of the race for the Democratic nomination in 2019. Jones thinks he would have gotten more traction if he'd done more beer ads.

"I'm a skilled double agent," Jones, 63, says, "because I've been a journalist and a publicist. And I have something slightly off in my brain that makes me look at things differently so I can find fresh approaches."

He also expresses his love of beer through music. Last year, Jones released "Brewed Gold," a 10-song collection of his beer ballads, with such titles as "Match Made in Milwaukee" and "I'll Have Another One."

"He's an extraordinarily creative person, and his mind is always working when it comes to thinking of ways of catching people's attention," said Charlie Papazian, founder of the American Homebrewers Association, the Brewers Association and the Great American Beer Festival.

"He certainly pushes the envelope, often doing things nobody's done before. Once he gets hooked into an idea and he's on board, it's going to go."

Jones' path to a beer career was a lot straighter than his path to an English degree.

PHOTOS COURTESY
OF MARTY JONES



Jones isn't the only beer guy in the family.

His older brother, Chris '76 (M.A. '82), brews beer at home and co-writes a beer column with his wife, Diane Catanzaro (Ph.D. '92), for Veer magazine, published and edited by Jeff Maisey '87. "She and I consider ourselves beer evangelists," Jones said, "obnoxiously pushing beer at every opportunity."

Like Marty, Chris is a beer musician, singing and playing harmonica for the Esoteric Ramblers, "which we advertise as the world's best beer band."

He made "great grades" his freshman year. "The second year, I spent more time listening to bands and drinking beer." Then he dropped out.

Jones was coaxed back to school more than a decade later by his future wife, Lisa Woolsey-Jones '90, now a victim's advocate for the Denver District Attorney's Office.

He started writing a beer column for the Mace and Crown and took two influential courses: Feature Writing, taught by Mike Pearson, now University Professor emeritus of English, and Public Relations 101, taught by John R. Broderick, now president emeritus.

"I can't overstate how much those two classes and those two people did for my future," he says.

Jones moved to Denver after he graduated. His goal was "to make a living in the beer industry and never have a boss."

He began writing beer and food articles for Westword, an alternative weekly. His food column won a first-place national award in 2002 from the Association of Food Journalists. He branched into copywriting for breweries and publicity for bands.

His first major break came in 2002, when he joined Oskar Blues Brewery, outside Denver, as an independent contractor. Jones pushed for selling beer in cans, which was then a radical change.

"It was a defying of the status quo in a significant fashion," Jones says. "Canning was

very much a maligned package at the time; people equated it with cheap beer. We were the first craft brewery to can it ourselves and the first to brag about it."

In the seven years Jones worked with Oskar Blues, he said, production jumped from 700 to more than 40,000 barrels of beer a year.

Next was Wynkoop, which had been co-founded by Hickenlooper. "They hired me to regain the mojo they lost when Hickenlooper went into politics," Jones says.

He persuaded Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb to drink one of Wynkoop's beers on their morning show and came up with catchy names like Belgorado, for a Belgian-style IPA.

A strong name can turn around declining sales, he says. Too often, though, "our trade has blown opportunities to give them artful names.

"The biggest offender now is the hazy IPA. I like many of them, but it's no longer an IPA if it has limited bitterness and it's cloudy like a milkshake. You wouldn't call a new form of hot dog a hamburger."

But that's a minor complaint in an otherwise hoppy life.

"Thanks to ODU, I've used my unique combination of skills to make a living and do something that I thoroughly enjoy. I'm able to promote a product, craft beer, that is maybe the greatest catalyst for conversation and kinship and spreading joy."

Marty Jones has had two health scares.

In 2007, his right leg swelled up, and his doctor found a pulmonary embolism. Last year, he was diagnosed with cancer of the tongue, which had spread to an almond-sized lump in his neck.

He overcame both challenges and returned to singing last fall. They helped him recognize "the fragile nature of life and the need to realign my priorities. I vowed to fish one day a week, spend more time with my beloved Lisa and play more music."

Taylor found a new role: Mayor of her hometown

BY PHILIP WALZER

One council member called her “phenomenal.” Another compared her to the Energizer Bunny.

Less than six months into her term as mayor of Crisfield, Maryland – a town of 2,425 on the Eastern Shore – Darlene Taylor ’85 was already getting spontaneous compliments at a City Council meeting in November.

And that was even after she had assigned the members a load of homework, pressing for liaisons for projects ranging from broadband expansion to youth recreation to help create a “vibrant Crisfield.”

“I don’t want small things to happen,” she said in an interview. “I want big things to happen, but they don’t have to happen all at once.”

She also recognizes the value of small touches.

Mayor Darlene Taylor stands at the Crisfield City Dock as the sun sets over Tangier Sound. The sunsets in Crisfield, Md., are “magical,” she says.

PHOTOS BY VICKI CRONIS-NOHE

The meeting included a public hearing on a proposed solar farm. Taylor vowed to contact all the speakers, pro and con, to thank them for their participation. “The fact that they came, that they care about Crisfield – how can that be wrong?”

Taylor, 58, cares about her hometown, too. That’s why she returned in 2005 after two decades as a Raytheon manager in Washington. “I always knew I was coming back to Crisfield,” she said. “D.C. never really felt like home.”

She launched a nonprofit organization providing after-school and summer programs to low-income children. Last year, she ran for mayor and became the first Black and female elected to the position.

Those “firsts,” she said, “are not really important to me, but they’re important for the children I’ve served over the years. They see that they can do anything and that Crisfield is willing to change.”

Taylor proves you really can go home again. It’s easier when you’ve always loved the place.

Taylor, who speaks quickly and laughs readily, describes her childhood in Crisfield, the southernmost town in Maryland, as “free-spirited and fun.” The fifth of six children, she played outside with siblings and friends. “I always felt safe and comfortable with everybody.”

Taylor picked crabs as a teenager, but even that experience, she said, “didn’t feel like hard work” in the company of “strong, independent women.”

Lynn Brown, a longtime friend, said Taylor’s attributes were evident back then. “She was the type of person who would stand up and take charge. She would do anything for anybody.”

At Old Dominion University, Taylor majored in computer science. Outside class, she belonged to Delta Sigma Theta and sang in the Ebony Impact Gospel Choir. The diversity on campus “helped me relate to so many people from all walks of life,” Taylor said.

She started at Raytheon Technical Services a month after she graduated. Early on, she was often the only woman and Black at meetings. “But I learned so much, I was able to rise



Taylor listens to Zoom comments during the Crisfield City Council meeting on Jan. 11.

through the ranks and I got a lot of respect working with some very talented people.”

As program manager, she oversaw 150 people in 13 locations worldwide. But something her aunt had told her stuck with her: “Crisfield is the way it is because so many people took from the community, but no one ever gave back.”

She moved back in 2005 with her two young children, Jasmine and Jason. The following year, she started a nonprofit, It Takes a Village, to provide summer activities for low-income youth. The group expanded to a weekday afterschool program later in 2006.

Now called It Takes a Village to Help Our Children, the organization also provides tutoring, college counseling and college tours. It has grown from serving 20 students to more than 200 and has a part-time staff of about 20. In 2020, the Daily Record in Maryland named Taylor one of the state’s Most Admired CEOs.

What does Taylor love about Crisfield? Walking down to the dock overlooking the bay. “You get that feeling of peacefulness and security being close to the water.”

And, of course, the people. “They really rally together in times of need. Your neighbors’ hearts are there to help. They make the town so welcoming and friendly.”

But she’s candid about what ails Crisfield. “When I walk through town, I feel a sense of desolation.” At their meeting, council members voiced frustration at the number of abandoned buildings.

Though seafood once dominated, Crisfield’s major employers are the Sherwin Williams paint distribution center and the school system. “We don’t have a lot of opportunities,” she said. “I’d love to get a call center.”

She’d also like more options for young people. “We don’t have a movie theater, a skating rink or a bowling alley.”

Taylor counts as an initial success filling two long-vacant positions – city inspector and grant administrator. “The city has an amazing team, but they know when they come to me, they have to bring everything,” she said. “I am an information person. We need to do the best we can and look at all of the options for the citizens of Crisfield.”

She’s optimistic she’ll make headway. “People are cooperating; people are excited. The town is starting to believe they can move forward.”

Councilwoman Charlotte Scott is optimistic, too. “She’s so inclusive of the rest of us,” Scott said. “She feels us out on everything. That was not happening before.

“I’m so hopeful for Crisfield. She has energized me as a citizen and as a councilperson.”

Darlene Taylor’s lodestars are faith and family.

She still sings in the choir every Sunday at Shiloh United Methodist Church and prays every morning to acquire more wisdom than King Solomon. She credits God with inspiring her to run for mayor and for her victory.

And her voice catches when she remembers her mother.

“Because of her, I always believed I could do anything,” Taylor said. “If I can be one-third of the person that she was, I will have succeeded in life.”

Tan works to nourish self-sufficiency

BY PHILIP WALZER



As president and CEO of the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, Christopher Tan (M.P.A. '99) sees his mission as serving all the people in the food line. But he has another equally important goal: eventually getting them out of the line.

That, Tan said, requires listening, not just food.

"We have an opportunity to engage them in how to achieve the goal of self-sufficiency," said Tan, who has led the Foodbank since May 2022. "The best way to change somebody's life is through a relationship."

Working with about 170 partners, including shelters, churches and other pantries, the Foodbank provides 16 million meals a year. It's facing the triple threat of soaring demand and costs coinciding with declining donations. The price of a case of canned pears, for example, jumped 60% from fall 2021 to fall 2022.

A food drive in Virginia Beach in October served a record 2,200 households in four hours, far more than the previous maximum of 1,700. Tan estimated three-quarters were "new to the Foodbank."

To meet the surging need, the Foodbank in September opened a 17,000-square-foot

Tan gets information from a recipient at a food drive in Virginia Beach in October.

warehouse in Franklin, accommodating 96,000 pounds of dry food. Tan is also diversifying funding sources – partnering with Sentara Health, cultivating legacy gifts and increasing "locally produced healthy foods."

Tan took the "less traditional" route to his master's in public administration. He started it straight out of college rather than after working a few years.

It was the right approach. "The older I've gotten," Tan, 47, said, "the more I appreciate what I got at ODU and how much it prepared me for the things I did and the way I did them."

Tan worked as an analyst with Newport News' Office on Children, Youth and Families and principal analyst for Norfolk's Department of Human Services.

He moved to Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia in 2011 to have a more direct impact on people, and he spent 11 years there – two as chief operating officer and nine as CEO.

The Foodbank position merges two of his deepest interests: "This place has tons of data, plus the human element I love. It's very invigorating to work with such a wide variety of jobs, from social worker to truck driver, and they're all focused on helping people."

Kevin Jones, vice chair of the Foodbank, said, "Chris has used his fundraising network and brought us resources that we weren't aware of. He's done an extraordinary job of having some type of connection with every associate," even riding along on truck routes.

Tan also faced "several situations where he had to rethink our tactics, and he did that famously, without a second thought," Jones said. "We have a high level of confidence in Chris."

To donate to the Foodbank, go to <https://foodbankonline.org/how-to-help/donate-funds/donate-now/>.



PHOTOS BY KRISTEN ZEIS

Monarch Pantry reduces worry for students

BY PHILIP WALZER

Since 2020, Old Dominion University's Monarch Pantry has been providing free food – including meat, produce and soup – for students in need.

With prices soaring, demand has risen. In the fall 2022 semester, the pantry recorded 2,347 visits, averaging 138 students per week. That represented increases of more than 270% from fall 2021. The totals as of early April this year were even higher.

National studies show that nearly 30% of college students experience food insecurity. About 40 percent of ODU students are eligible for federal Pell Grants, said Kara Boone, assistant director for service learning for the Office of Leadership and Learning, "so we know there's real need here."

A survey of Old Dominion recipients found that about two-thirds use the food "to cook from scratch," and 36% were shopping for more than themselves.

"I can find necessary items like rice, fresh vegetables and fruits, potatoes and bread," one student said. "Having those items and being able to cook means being able to eat healthy food and be less worried about what you are going to eat. This allows me to be more focused on my studies."

The pantry, which is in the Suffolk Room of Webb University Center, is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Friday. Students need to provide only their ID cards to receive food.

The room has one freezer full of protein options, including chicken, tilapia and plant-based beef substitutes. Another has fruits and vegetables – often apples

and squash. Shelves feature tuna, mac and cheese, peanut butter, bulk cereal and pasta, and loads of sweet potatoes. The pantry also carries such toiletries as deodorant, feminine hygiene products and toilet paper. Students may choose a limited number of each type of item.

All of the food is donated. Aramark provides bulk dry goods such as pasta and beans, as well as frozen meats and fresh produce. Panera Bread supplies bread and pastries.

"Initiatives like these give a little beacon of hope," Boone said. "There are people who are willing to help."

For more information about receiving or donating food, go to fundit.odu.edu and click on FeedODU or email pantry@odu.edu.



Monarchs in the news



In the nation's first Monarch vs. Monarch congressional race, **Republican Jen Kiggans '11** defeated Democrat **Elaine Luria (M.E.M. '04)** in November to represent the 2nd Congressional District of Virginia in the U.S. House. Luria had held the seat since 2019. Kiggans served as a Navy helicopter pilot for 10 years. After she left the Navy, she received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Old Dominion and worked as a geriatric nurse practitioner. Kiggans, who previously served in the Virginia Senate, has also been an adjunct instructor in the School of Nursing.

Amanda Lee '13 has become the first female demonstration pilot for the Navy's Blue Angels. Hundreds of women have served with the Blue Angels, but she will be the first to fly in formation. Lee, who received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry, had been assigned to the Gladiators of Strike Fighter Squadron 106 at Naval Air Station Oceana. She is undergoing an intensive five-month training program. In an interview in 2019, Lee said she considers herself "a pilot first, person second and my gender isn't really an issue."





Quarterback **Taylor Heinicke** led the Washington Commanders to most of their victories last season, winning five of the nine games he started. He completed 161 of 259 passes for 12 TDs. Heinicke quickly became a favorite of teammates and fans, who chanted his name during one game when he wasn't leading the offense. He'll be passing next season for the Atlanta Falcons, who signed him in March to a two-year contract reportedly worth up to \$20 million.

Houston Astros pitcher **Justin Verlander** won his third Cy Young Award, on a unanimous vote, in November. He led the majors in ERA (1.75) and the American League in wins (18). He also recorded his first World Series victory, allowing the Phillies just one run in nine innings. Not too shabby for a 39-year-old who had been sidelined the previous two seasons recovering from Tommy John surgery. Now he's a Met with a two-year, \$87 million contract.



Matt Quatraro '96 was hired in October to lead the Kansas City Royals, becoming the first Monarch manager of a Major League Baseball team. He spent the previous five years with the Tampa Bay Rays as third-base and bench coach. Quatraro has Monarch company: In December, the Royals signed pitcher **Ryan Yarbrough '14**, who'd been with Tampa Bay since 2018. And designated hitter **Vinnie Pasquantino** finished his rookie major league season with a .295 batting average.

Tomchick found a win after cyberattack

BY PHILIP WALZER

Greg Tomchick '15 compares it to being caught in a fire without an extinguisher.

His previous business, a software development company, suffered a major cyberattack in 2016. The damage to the firm's operation and reputation was so extensive, he had to close it.

Then Tomchick, a former minor league pitcher who likes baseball metaphors, did something a little out of left field. He decided to specialize in cybersecurity. After working for five years at the nation's top cyber companies, he opened his own, Valor, in 2021. "It's almost the same feeling I had as an athlete – a fire in the belly – to positively impact people," said Tomchick, 30.

Three Monarchs who graduated in different decades cover the bases: Tomchick is the CEO, Jeff White '06 is the chief security officer and Adam Slone '87 is the lead investor. "ODU is the glue that got us together," Tomchick said.

White, who previously was a network technician and federal background investigator, connected with Tomchick in 2019. Slone met Tomchick at the Strome Entrepreneurial Center in 2015. "I was very impressed with his passion, his discipline and his drive to do great work," said Slone, 57, chairman of Slone Partners, an executive recruitment firm specializing in life sciences and cybersecurity.

Their age range provides strength and diversity. "It's not good when everybody speaks the same language," Tomchick said. "It helps to have different voices and perspectives in the room."

That variety, White, 39, said, "allows you to better serve your clients."

Valor Cybersecurity is based in downtown Norfolk. The name, White said, signifies "the ability to face cyber threats head-on with courage and bravery."

Valor aims to protect – or perform cleanups for – businesses in three areas. One is professional sports.

Athletes now equip themselves with wearable devices. But "the back office has not kept up with the security of these technologies," Tomchick said. One example was a security breach last fall that affected 20,000 San Francisco 49ers fans and vendors.

The other industries are private equity and defense, which safeguard the nation's economy and security. "If you protect these organizations," Tomchick said, "we have a much better chance as a country to protect ourselves."

Valor is "off to a very strong start," Slone said. The company has five clients in all three areas. It also offers unpaid apprenticeships to "provide real knowledge to the next generation," Tomchick said.

His goal by 2025? "To serve 100 industry-leading organizations, their thousands of employees and the millions of lives they touch each and every day. We want to make people feel more confident and certain in the insecure world we live in."



From top:
Greg Tomchick '15, Jeff White '06
and Adam Slone '87

In 2020, Tomchick co-wrote with Bryce Herman "Growing Into You: The Journey to Living On Purpose," which provides life lessons in the form of letters and exercises.

Adam Slone also founded Life Serve Youth Foundation, a sleepaway tennis camp for low-income youths. Read more about it at www.odu.edu/monarchmag.



MOVING FORWARD

Last fall, President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., initiated “Forward Focused: For Dreams and Beyond,” a \$500 million capital campaign. It will benefit students, faculty, staff and the region through improvements in six areas.

Students

A significant increase in scholarships, internships and undergraduate research grants will enhance the student experience and reduce financial challenges.

Faculty

More endowed chairs and professorships will attract renowned faculty to elevate research and teaching on campus.

Athletics

Old Dominion will expand athletic scholarships and undertake a major renovation of the baseball stadium.

Research

The University will build on its recent R1 Carnegie designation to acquire a new research ship, establish a Monarch Catalyst Fund and expand its trailblazing work in resilience.

Health Care

Targeting substance abuse and mental health and partnering with Eastern Virginia Medical School and Norfolk State University to establish a School of Public Health, ODU will improve the quality of health care and reduce inequities in Hampton Roads.

Special Projects

A new alumni center and improvements to the Barry Art Museum, along with campus beautification initiatives, will increase ODU’s appeal as a destination.

“As we embark on this campaign, Monarch Nation is stepping boldly forward to declare our dreams possible.”

– President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.

To support Old Dominion’s For Dreams and Beyond campaign, go to give.odu.edu.

Meet the new deans

They're impressed with the compassion and "stick-to-it-iveness" exhibited by ODU students, faculty and staff. They're eager to make further advances in R1 research and diversity. They also bring surprising hobbies and interests, from DJing to driving huge cars.

BY PHILIP WALZER

PHOTOS BY CHUCK THOMAS '90



Laura Delbrugge Dean of the College of Arts and Letters

Previous position: Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities for the Pennsylvania State System universities of Clarion, California and Edinboro, now called Penn West.

Major lesson learned last year: When you buy a 100-year-old house, be prepared to replace a lot of plumbing on move-in day. Seriously, the best thing I have learned since my arrival is just how much the ODU staff and faculty care about our students, from the first-year next-gen student to the doctoral candidate on-site or online.

Top priority at ODU: In the near term, our plan to hire 16 full-time faculty this academic year will allow us to better serve our majors and support faculty research. In the long term, we must institute systems and processes that will translate our aspirations for diversity, equity and inclusion into reality, while serving as an important partner in ODU's R1 mission. (Old Dominion's R1 ranking places it at the highest level of research institutions.)

Initial impression: When I visited ODU for my interview, I told the faculty and staff I firmly believe this college knows how to create, narrate, communicate, prove, explain, explore, elevate and illustrate the human experience. We also fulfill an important outreach mission, through our many community connections, internship programs, and artistic and cultural presentations.

Fun fact few people know about you: As a student of medieval history and literature, I am a huge fan of stained glass, which makes Hampton Roads a perfect place for me. But we're running out of walls!



Tammi Dice '96 (M.Ed. '00)

Dean of Darden College of Education and Professional Studies

Previous positions: Interim dean and associate dean for undergraduate education.

Major lesson learned last year: I've been inspired by the resilience and drive, combined with the compassion and collective support, demonstrated by our students, faculty, staff and friends as we worked through the pandemic. I am convinced we have the "stick-to-it-iveness" to continue to grow and improve no matter the challenges we face.

Top priority at ODU: I am thrilled to shift from addressing the immediate needs of the college to developing – in collaboration with faculty, staff, students and stakeholders – a long-term strategic plan. That's particularly important as we consider diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility initiatives and efforts to retain our R1 status.

Biggest change seen at ODU: I've watched the University transform from a small commuter school to a thriving, residential, research institution still focused on serving students from all over the world.

Fun fact few people know about you: Not only have I worked at ODU as a faculty member and administrator, but I also attended ODU for my bachelor's and master's degrees. What many don't know is that during that time, I was a member of the women's cross-country team and the Dominionettes dance team.



Kenneth Fridley

Dean of Batten College of Engineering and Technology

Previous position: Senior associate dean, College of Engineering, University of Alabama.

Major lesson learned last year: The resiliency, adaptability and compassion of our students continue to astonish me. The future has been far more uncertain for them than any other recent generation, yet they seem to keep their focus and optimism intact.

Top priority at ODU: I will work with the faculty, staff, students and other constituencies to provide an increasing number of diverse, career-ready bachelor's, master's and doctoral graduates in response to local, regional and national needs for engineers. Simultaneously, we will be a driving force behind solidifying ODU's position as an R1 institution.

Initial impression: "New Dawn, New Day" applies to more than ODU Athletics joining the Sun Belt Conference. There is a unique level of excitement about the future all across campus and, certainly, within the college – and a strong appetite to build on the past and achieve more with greater positive impact, locally and beyond.

Fun fact few people know about you: My very first car was a '41 Oldsmobile Coupe. While my friends were driving Camaros, Firebirds and 4x4 pickups, I had a hand-me-down straight-six, three-on-the-tree green whale. I fixed it up, sold it at an auction and bought a '63 MGC-GT, also a six-cylinder green coupe – just a lot smaller and, well, faster (as the local highway patrol let me know).



Timothy Hackman
Dean of Libraries

Previous position: Associate director for public services, Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Major lesson learned last year: I really learned to slow down in both my work and my personal life, appreciate the moments a bit more and not rush to get to the next thing. I'm still more impatient with myself than I'd like to be, but I'm making progress!

Top priority at ODU: I'm here to help our amazing librarians and staff make the ODU Libraries as good as they can be to support our students, faculty and community. I want the Libraries to be a place where everyone feels welcome and that there's something here to help them be successful.

Initial impression: I appreciate how welcoming the campus has been and the obvious Monarch spirit here. After 20 years in the D.C. metro area, I also appreciate my five-minute commute!

Fun fact few people know about you: I paid some of my graduate school bills as a karaoke DJ. I still do a pretty good Temptations and a really good Elvis.



Kenneth Kahn
Dean of Strome College of Business

Previous position: Dean of Cleveland State University's Monte Ahuja College of Business.

Major lesson learned last year: Things at work and in life overall can change quickly. Be prepared to respond/adapt to change, and even embrace change.

Top priority at ODU: Grow the reputation and brand recognition of the Strome College of Business.

Initial impression: Everyone has been very welcoming, and ODU is a great place to be.

Fun fact few people know about you: In 1995, I was on the faculty of Georgia Tech's School of Management in Atlanta. One October day, a member of the dean's office stopped by, indicating that I was the only marketing faculty member available. I was told that I had two hours to prepare for a CNN television interview on the marketing of Halloween. That evening, I was at CNN studios being interviewed and recorded; two days later, the interview was nationally televised. Because of the interview and the tagline under my name, I am officially a "Halloween Marketing Expert."



Li-Wu Chen

Dean of Joint School of Public Health

Previous position: Professor and chair, Department of Health Sciences, University of Missouri-Columbia.

Major lesson learned last year: Through the pandemic, I have learned to value every moment of my life, which is spent either with my family, friends, colleagues or students. Life is short and unpredictable. What matters to me is what difference I may be able to make for them and myself.

Top priority at ODU: I look forward to working closely with excellent faculty, staff and students across Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University and Eastern Virginia Medical School to make the new Joint School of Public Health a great success. There have been tremendous challenges to the U.S. and global public health systems in recent years. By establishing innovative partnerships with academic institutions and community stakeholders, we will increase opportunities to improve population health outcomes and better address health disparities in Hampton Roads and elsewhere.

Initial impression: I find a very neat and vibrant campus environment with an admirable culture of helping each other.

Fun fact few people know about you: I am an immigrant who is originally from Taiwan. I love traveling, enjoying great food, playing badminton and singing karaoke.



Suzanne M. Wright

Interim Dean of School of Nursing

Previous position: Chair, School of Nursing, College of Health Sciences.

Major lesson learned last year: While working with members of our team experiencing interpersonal conflicts, I have learned to appreciate the importance of taking the time to listen to “both sides of the story.” Most of the time, those conflicts are simply a result of poor communication rather than either party being right or wrong. Interpersonal conflicts, in fact, are incredible opportunities for growth.

Top priority at ODU: My top priority as interim dean is to leverage resources to create opportunities for all team members to grow and learn as we carry out our mission to prepare exceptional nurses, advance nursing science, engage alumni and partner with our community to promote good health and well-being.

Initial impression: ODU has a culture that is inclusive, supportive, friendly and scholarly and one that values critical and out-of-the-box thinking, empowerment, resiliency and work-life balance.

Fun fact few people know about you: Soon after high school graduation, I sold cars for nearly 10 years to earn money for college and did not start my bachelor’s in nursing program until age 27. And I am a huge fan of the Buffalo Bills. Go Bills!



Pen Pal

BY PHILIP WALZER

The way D.E. Wittkower sees it, technology opens one door and closes another. Take the modern razor. It made shaving easier but eroded a sense of community since fewer men went to barbershops.

Wittkower, professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, likes to re-enter the world behind those closed doors and resurrect what he calls the “forgotten arts.” He taught himself to shave with a straight razor and to write in Spencerian script, a form of cursive common before the 1920s. And that led to a major hobby – repairing vintage and antique fountain pens.

Wittkower opened an Etsy store, DWittRestoration, in 2018 “to get them out of the house to make room to restore some more.” He’s sold about 400 restored pens and pencils, some for more than \$400, to buyers from 17 countries. Among the purchasers: the producers of the 2021 film “Being the Ricardos.” He spotted at least one of his pens in the movie.



D.E. Wittkower

He works in his Norfolk living room, equipped with a heat gun, drill press, shellac and silicone grease. He's restored "boxy, retro-futuristic" Sheaffer TRZ pens from the '80s and a huge Parker Duofold Senior nearly a century old. The most challenging is the Sheaffer Snorkel, "a tiny engineering marvel," as Wittkower puts it. "Things have to be just right to generate the right air pressure to draw up ink through the snorkel into the pen." The Sheaffer has a seemingly infinite number of other parts, including the sac bushing, barrel o-ring, pneumatic sleeve piston and nib assembly gasket.

Wittkower also wants to restore society's appreciation of philosophy. He wrote the recently released "What Would Plato Think: 200+ Philosophical Questions That Could Change Your Life." Aside from his pen restoration, he grows orchids and fences competitively.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIBARI JR.



A GI's surprising find: A hidden SS diary



In “The Time Left between Us,” published in September, Alicia DeFonzo retraces her grandfather Del’s experiences fighting Germans in World War II and explores the secret diary of a Nazi Waffen SS officer that he found. In this excerpt, Del discovers the diary as the Battle of the Bulge is about to begin. DeFonzo is a senior lecturer in the English department.

“Spotting a damn SS Trooper was easy,” Del said. They were too young and had no business being there. Most were “blonde hair, blue eyed, just out of school.” Some as young as fifteen, recruited to fight and hate until a “bullet to the head.” Del sometimes wondered if they realized what they were getting into, but that didn’t matter now.

He crouched in the flurries to give the body a once over, make sure the SS was gone. The Belgian frost made it tough to tell how long someone’s been dead. Looked like a hole, clean through the skull, crisps of dried blood at the entry point.

“He’s spent,” Del called out.

“Come on,” said the Lt. “Grab his tags!”

Standard protocol. Grab the dog tags and go, turn them in to the CO, tally another dead German. But sometimes, they didn’t turn them in. “If the guy was noncompliant, or your buddy just got killed, or you’re just ... freezing and had enough, then you wanted the guy to disappear,” Del said. That was enough to make some GIs feel better.

Del felt around his neck for the Erkennungsmarke, German identification tags. Nothing. This nameless kid was vanishing into the snow. Del patted the body and found a hard patch worked into the coat seam. He pulled out a black, leather-bound book imprinted with the two boldfaced letters “SS,” which looked like lightning bolts.

A Waffen SS diary.

“He must have broken all military protocol carrying this thing around,” Del thought. Record cards pertaining to Waffen SS were never allowed in the field, as they contained valuable information.

He flipped through the pages for a name, but it was all in German.

The whole thing seemed useless until out fell a black and white. Full uniform, blonde hair, but the kid looked older in the picture than the cold body on the ground. He was posing with a round-faced girl, dark hair done up in wavy curls. The couple was half-smiling.

“What you got? Time to move.”

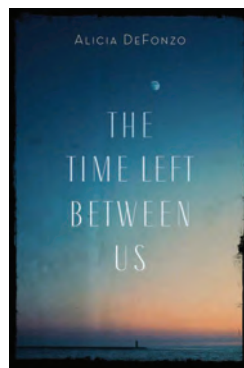
He shoved the SS diary and photograph into his jacket; he wasn’t sure why. Del usually didn’t hunt for souvenirs like other GIs. He should have turned it in to his CO, but no one was looking, so he broke code.

“I got nothin!”

He glanced down at the deceased and whispered, “Sorry, pal.”

Del caught up to the combat engineers, and they trudged together through the miserable winter. He wanted to keep moving, and for damn sure, stop thinking.

The kid was just another SS trooper.



‘Dr. Jay’ offers his top tips to graduates

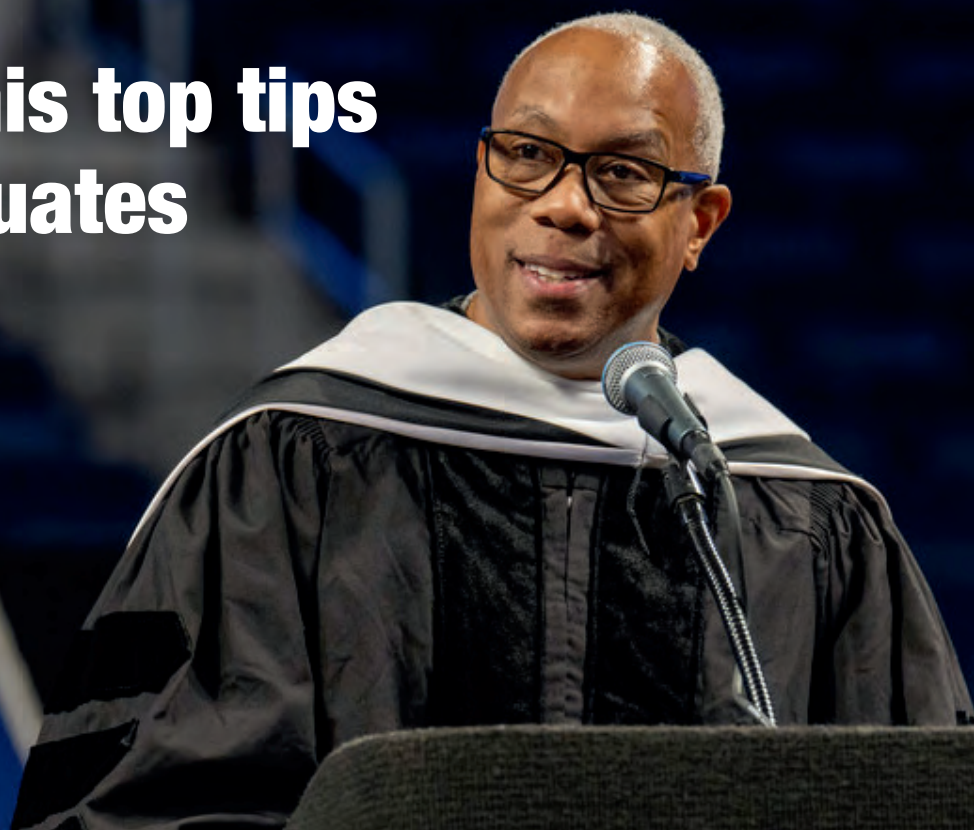


PHOTO BY CHUCK THOMAS '90

ESPN anchor Jay Harris '87 told more than 2,000 Old Dominion University graduates last December to harness their “Monarch DNA” to propel their life journeys. Harris, who served on ODU’s Board of Visitors from 2014 to 2022, also received an honorary doctorate during the University’s 137th Commencement Exercises.

“Whatever your path, just keep going,” said Harris, who has been at ESPN for 20 years. “Follow your passion, your dreams, your talents and your desires – even when you hear the word ‘no.’” He also told them: “If you do not step forward, you will always be in the same place. You’re stepping forward today. And I need you to keep stepping tomorrow and the day after that and the day after that.”

After Harris was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters, President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., declared: “You are officially a double alumnus of Old Dominion University.”

Harris responded: “I’m Dr. Jay!”

“Follow your passion,
your dreams, your
talents and your
desires – even when
you hear the word ‘no.’”



She's back!

Last November, Old Dominion unveiled the first statue on campus of a real person. It's a 6-foot bronze likeness of basketball legend Nancy Lieberman '80, who led ODU to two national basketball championships and later became the oldest player in the WNBA and the second woman to coach in the NBA. Lieberman said she hopes the statue, which stands outside the Mitchum Basketball Performance Center, helps motivate all student-athletes.

PHOTO: NICHOLAS CLARK



Ellmer gift to power baseball renovation

BY HARRY MINIMUM '77

Old Dominion's baseball team suffered a tough loss in 2021, and it wasn't because the Monarchs gave up too many runs.

After compiling a 44-12 record and winning the Conference USA Tournament, ODU was denied a chance to host a regional game because the NCAA said the nearly 40-year-old Bud Metheny Stadium didn't meet minimum standards.

Dennis Ellmer didn't want that to happen again. Ellmer, the president and CEO of Priority Automotive, and his wife, Jan, are donating \$2.5 million toward a \$20 million renovation of the stadium, which is expected to be completed by the 2025 season. President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., announced the gift during his State of the University address in September.

Ellmer hasn't forgotten his roots.

The self-made millionaire grew up in a house without AC in a working-class neighborhood in Norfolk. He was already an entrepreneur in high school, delivering the morning and evening newspapers and selling auto parts.

He attended ODU briefly. Later, with his wife's blessing, Ellmer mortgaged their house, borrowed every dime he could and bought Jimmy Kline Chevrolet and Toyota in 1998. That grew to Priority Automotive,

now a \$2 billion a year business that employs nearly 3,000 people.

Ellmer has raised and donated millions of dollars to local charities, especially those that benefit children. In addition to academic and athletic scholarships, his generosity to Old Dominion has included a \$1.5 million gift in 2019 to create the Priority Automotive Club at S.B. Ballard Stadium. Ellmer also took over the Charity Bowl football game nearly a decade ago and turned it into a fundraising juggernaut.

"Over the years, ODU became a school that I adopted," he said. "I began to realize just how important the research being done here is to Hampton Roads and the commonwealth and how important it is for ODU to continue graduating young people in fields such as cybersecurity, the sciences and education."

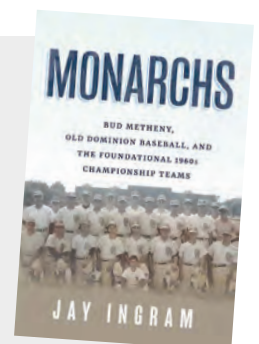
Baseball Coach Chris Finwood said the renovated stadium, to be known as the Ellmer Baseball Family Complex, will position Old Dominion to be competitive in the Sun Belt Conference, which it joined last year. The upgrade could include expanded seating, luxury suites, new locker and meeting rooms, and a new press box.

Populous, a leading sports architectural firm, will work with Moseley Architects of Virginia Beach on the renovation, which will preserve most of the stadium infrastructure. The firms also teamed on remodeling S.B. Ballard Stadium.

President Hemphill said of Ellmer: "What has defined Dennis most is his love for others and his desire to create change and opportunity as far and wide as possible."

Harry Minimum '77 is senior executive writer at Old Dominion University.

In "Monarchs: Bud Metheny, Old Dominion Baseball, and the Foundational 1960s Championship Teams," recently published by Mascot Books, Jay Ingram recounts how the legendary coach helped build a series of successful teams. Proceeds go to the John A. Jr. '64 and Arlene Ingram '64 (M.S.Ed. '76) Baseball Scholarship. To purchase the book, go to MascotBooks.com or Amazon.





Lund strengthens students' mental health

PHOTO BY CHUCK THOMAS '90

BY HARRY MINIUM '77

The pandemic has worsened the mental health crisis among student-athletes in the country, with increases in suicide, depression and eating disorders.

Old Dominion University took the problem head-on last summer, hiring Sonja Lund '11 (M.S. '15, Ph.D. '19) as associate athletic director of student-athlete mental health and well-being.

Lund, whose doctorate is in counseling education and supervision, was charged with creating a program for athletes to complement the work being done by the Counseling Center.

Lund hired Rennel Marshall as a part-time counselor and began seeing athletes in late August. They held 269 one-on-one counseling sessions with more than 60 athletes in the fall semester.

Ron Moses, ODU's executive senior athletic director, sees a direct correlation between the improved mental health of many athletes and their average GPA of 3.28 in the fall, the best in school history.

The new program was made possible by a \$150,000 donation from the Kenneth

A. Hall and Patricia A. Hall Charitable Foundation, established by the late Ken Hall, the founder of Hall Automotive.

Gray Kiger Jr., an executive at the Hall Foundation, is painfully familiar with mental illness. His son, Gray, a standout for the sailing team who suffered from severe depression, killed himself in 2017.

Wood Selig, ODU's athletic director, said: "We knew we needed to provide our student-athletes with additional resources." A survey conducted by Moses confirmed that belief: An overwhelming majority of student-athletes said more mental health care was needed.

"We've been extremely busy," Lund said. "We've seen a lot of people with major depressive disorders."

She located her office on Monarch Way, on the opposite side of campus from athletics, to make it easier for athletes concerned with anonymity to seek help.

The sessions are free and not billed to insurance. "So many athletes come in and ask, 'Are my parents going to know I was here?'" she said. "And the answer is that it's completely confidential."

Lund said athletes are under intense pressure, much of it self-imposed, to be high achievers. When they fall short of unrealistic expectations, many struggle. Others have difficulty coping with the intense time and physical demands required of college athletes. Because most were raised to overcome adversity with toughness, many hesitate to seek help.

That was true for Jason Wade, a basketball player who suffered knee and Achilles tendon injuries requiring surgery in successive years. "I identified myself as a basketball player, and when that was taken away, it really hit me hard," he said.

"I don't know where I would be had I not gotten into counseling," said Wade, now a junior, who returned to the team this season.

Lund said she wants to get busier.

"I think that we're probably still missing a large number of people who could be helped," she said. "And I think the stigma attached to mental health, unfortunately, has a lot to do with it."

FROM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR CAMDEN WOOD SELIG



Our legacy: A star-studded lineup

Pound for pound, nobody hits above their weight class like Old Dominion University athletics.

ODU recently dedicated a statue on campus in honor of women's basketball great Nancy Lieberman, who led the University to two national titles and has had a distinguished career as a player, coach, entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Nancy tops a long list of contemporary national sports figures from ODU. While we're still a relatively young University, the list below will indicate how far we've come:

Justin Verlander, the three-time Cy Young Award winner and future Hall of Famer, now with the New York Mets, has played for two World Series championship teams.

Verlander was joined on Major League Baseball rosters last year by Ryan Yarbrough and Vinnie Pasquantino (Kansas City Royals), Daniel Hudson (Los Angeles Dodgers), Jared Young and P.J. Higgins (Chicago Cubs) and Connor Overton (Cincinnati Reds).

Taylor Heinicke, who was quarterback for the Washington Commanders, passed for 14,959 yards in 3 ½ seasons at ODU.

Seven other ODU alums were on NFL rosters last year: Oshane Ximines (New York Giants), Rick Lovato and Zach Pascal (Philadelphia Eagles), Rashaad Coward (Arizona Cardinals), Travis Fulgham (Green Bay Packers) and Isaac Weaver and Stone Smartt (Los Angeles Chargers).

Jay Harris has been an ESPN broadcaster for two decades.

ODU women's basketball coach DeLisha Milton-Jones, a longtime WNBA star, was voted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame last year.

Dave Twardzik, the former ODU All-American point guard who helped the Portland Trail Blazers win the 1977 NBA championship, is the radio color commentator for ODU men's basketball.

Marianne Stanley won three national women's basketball titles as head coach at ODU and was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2022.

Ticha Penicheiro, a former women's basketball All-American who had a long WNBA career, is now a player-agent.

Mark West started four years at ODU and played 17 years in the NBA. Since 2001, he has worked for the Phoenix Suns.

Paul Webb retired from ODU as the winningest basketball coach in Virginia history with a 511-257 career record.

Beth Anders was one of the most successful field hockey coaches in NCAA history. In 30 years at ODU, she won a record nine national titles.

Tony Brothers has been an NBA referee since 1994 and has worked in eight NBA finals. He is a restaurant owner and philanthropist and serves on the Old Dominion Athletic Foundation board.

Natalie Diaz was a key member of the ODU women's basketball Final Four team in 1997 but is best known as a poet. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 2021 for a collection titled "Postcolonial Love Poem."

The late Anne Donovan helped ODU win a women's basketball national title and earned three Olympic gold medals as a player and coach.

Have I overlooked anyone? Chances are I have. Please let me know so we can continue to add to our Who's Who of ODU athletes. Email wselig@odu.edu.

FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Dear Fellow Monarchs,

I have never been prouder to be an ODU graduate and to lead the ODU Alumni Association Board of Directors as president. In my second year as president, I have witnessed some astonishing accomplishments from students, alumni, faculty and beyond. The Monarch community is one of constant innovation, and that has been made more evident with each passing year. The recently announced “Forward Focused: For Dreams and Beyond” capital campaign, with a goal of \$500 million, provides an exciting opportunity to fund scholarships and research opportunities for students, invest in public health, continue the growth of a world-class campus and more.



For those of you reading this who share in the proud feeling of ODU being your alma mater, how great is it to be a Monarch? From what started as the Norfolk Division of the College of William & Mary in 1930, to becoming an established university in 1969, to today being a designated R1 research institution, ODU continues an upward trajectory to strive for excellence. Approximately 165,000 alumni gained an education, as well as the skills, to go out into the world and do big things. Catching up with fellow ODAAA board members, as well as friends from ODU, I am constantly in awe of our graduates’ achievements. The ODU Alumni Association celebrated the 2022 class of 40 Under 40, which comprised leaders in their professions and communities. Please be on the lookout for the announcement of the 2023 class of 40 Under 40. I think you will be impressed!

If you are not involved in some capacity with the ODU Alumni Association, I encourage you to reconsider. The time you put into the University, whether it be through attending an event, volunteering or contributing, is time well spent. The tradition of the Monarch is unique because ODU is one of a kind!

Go Monarchs!

*Andre Wells '07 (M.P.A. '13)
President, Alumni Association*

Class Notes welcomes news and photos about your professional accomplishments, new jobs, weddings and births. Submit your items to pwalzer@odu.edu with the subject line “Class Notes.”

Send address changes to odu.edu/alumni/contact-update.

Class Notes compiled by Janet Molinaro (M.A. '14).

1970s

Richard Copenhaver '77 received an honorary degree from Wytheville Community College in September for significant contributions to the school where he started his career with a dental assisting certificate. Dr. Copenhaver returned to Wytheville in 1984 and opened a dental practice after earning a bachelor’s in dental hygiene and a medical degree in dental surgery.

William I. Foster III '78 of Virginia Beach became CEO of TowneBank in January, succeeding J. Morgan Davis, who retired. Foster’s most recent position was market president for Central Virginia and the Carolinas. He began working at TowneBank in 2004 and led its expansion into Norfolk.

1980s

Christopher Coffing (M.S. '80) of Norfolk, Va., made the 2022 Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list awarded by Forbes – for the fifth time. Coffing has been a financial adviser with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management since 1984.

Ted Hand '81, director of engineering/operations for Cox Media Group in Charlotte, N.C., was reelected in August to a second one-year term as national vice president of the Society of Broadcast Engineers.



Artist **Charlie Newton (M.F.A. '87)** and his wife, lantha, received the Ruth Holmberg Arts Leadership Award in Chattanooga, Tenn., last June. The ArtsBuild

nonprofit cited the couple's community outreach, which began eight years ago with feeding 75 to 150 homeless people each Sunday at their downtown art studio. The Newtons launched the SPLASH Youth Arts Workshop to help students they met on Sundays improve their reading and learning skills in a fun social setting.

John Erick Roos (M.A. '88), senior vice president of corporate communications and research at cable network INSP, was inducted into the Cable TV Pioneers class of 2021. The honor cited his behind-the-scenes role as a founder of Christian Broadcasting Network, the first satellite-delivered basic cable network.

1990s



Scott Edson '90 has been named executive director of the United Way of Coshocton County in Ohio. Edson took the job in September after working more than

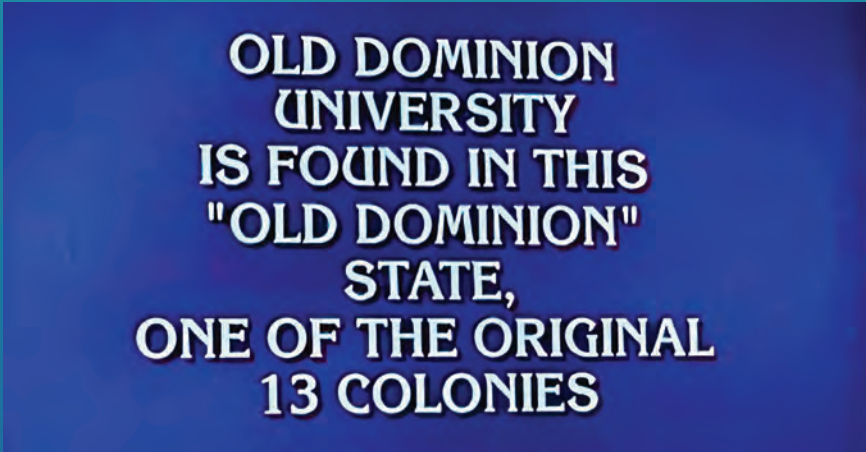
20 years in community outreach, recreation and administration, including a stint as executive director of the YMCA in Spotsylvania County, Va.



Julie Timm '93 (M.S. '97) headed West to Seattle, Wash., in September to lead Sound Transit. The company provides light rail, train and bus options from

Everett, north of Seattle, to Tacoma in the south. She previously was CEO of Greater Richmond (Va.) Transit Co.

Now...



This clue appeared in an episode of "Jeopardy!" last September. The correct question: What's a great blast of free national publicity for Monarch Nation?

And then ...



One was a big name at ODU; the other was a world-renowned TV celebrity. Who are they? The correct answer: Donna Koch, the wife of then-President James V. Koch, and Mister Rogers in 2000, when the PBS host spoke at Old Dominion's commencement. The photo was among the memorabilia Koch donated last year to the University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives. The collection, which is available for public viewing, includes anecdotes about events she hosted in the President's House, menus with handwritten notes, invitations and more photos.

A 3-generation legacy in performing arts

Avery Zink's path to open a dance studio began early. She took her first dance classes at 4, and by 17, knew her destiny was a career in choreography so she could “create dances, and pick out music and costumes.”

With her family's enthusiastic support, Zink opened Studio 17 Dance in Virginia Beach just months after graduating in 2019 with a degree in dance from Old Dominion University. She is the third-generation Monarch in her family to follow performance arts as a career.

“I was just born into it,” Zink said. “I thought all grandmothers have TV shows.”

Her grandmother, Connie Hindmarsh, established the family legacy as “Miss Connie,” a host on local children's TV shows in the mid-'50s. Hindmarsh later spent 10 years as director of performing arts for Norfolk Public Schools.

Waiting in the wings was Zink's mom, Kelly Parks, who made her first on-camera appearances as a preschooler. She filled the empty seat if one of the six child actors scheduled on Miss Connie's TV shows, “Romper Room” and “Connie's Magic Cottage,” couldn't make it. Parks continued acting with the Hurrah Players. She performed aboard Spirit of Norfolk cruises in high school and at Busch Gardens during college. She then taught in Norfolk Public Schools by day and settled into a supporting role as a dance mom for Avery in the evening. She and her husband, Kellam Parks, now manage the business affairs of Studio 17.

The family's ties to Old Dominion University began with Hindmarsh, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees at ODU. Parks earned her teaching certificate at ODU in the late '80s after receiving a theater arts degree from Virginia Wesleyan University. Zink hurried through ODU in 3 ½ years, eager to launch her dream.

At Studio 17, instructors teach 70 students from ages 5 to 17 in dance and musical theater. The studio also sponsors a dance competition team for students seeking a different type of challenge.

Zink tapped her ODU connections for several studio classes. Brande Morrow, a former Cirque du Soleil aerialist and adjunct instructor at ODU, teaches the area's only aerial arts program for children. Zink enlisted James E. Morrow, assistant professor of dance, to teach master classes in hip-hop.

Beyond dance techniques, Zink teaches students the importance of preventing injury and having a healthy body image. To build students' self-confidence, she brings in visiting professionals, who expose students to different teaching styles and prepare them for future auditions.

Creating a positive, joyful dance experience is Zink's legacy for the generations to come.



From left, Connie Hindmarsh, Avery Zink and Kelly Parks celebrate their Monarch roots and three generations in performing arts.

— Janet Molinaro (M.A. '14)



Sarah Boyce Golden '94 was appointed to the board of Old Point Financial Corp. and Old Point National Bank in March 2022. She is president of GBS Group, an engineering services

firm for the U.S. Navy and maritime, rail and transportation industries. Golden also is a founder of the ODU Women's Initiative Network, which mentors ODU women students in their careers.



Michele Dowell (M.S.Ed. '95) joined the North Allegheny (Pennsylvania) School District as director of student services in 2021. Within months, she was asked to serve as interim assistant

superintendent of elementary education, and landed that job in July.

Michael Franklin '95 of Berlin, Md., has been named executive director of the Chesapeake Housing Mission, which partners with community volunteers to provide critical home repairs for low-income families living in four counties of Maryland's southern Eastern Shore.

Teresa Goad '96 (M.S.Ed. '97) in May 2022 was named Wythe County Teacher of the Year by the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce. The former Fort Chiswell Middle School science teacher, who now is alternative education coordinator for Wythe County Public Schools, says her biggest reward comes when her students make positive choices to guide their future.

John J. Kiefer (M.U.S. '97, Ph.D. '01) is serving as chairman of the political science department at the University of New Orleans. He specializes in hazard policy and developing collaborative networks especially focused on vulnerable residents in a disaster.

Patrick Madigan (M.E. '97) has been hired as public works director for Lexington, Va. He took the job in September after 30 years working in civil and structural engineering.



Cynthia Freeman (M.S. '99) has been promoted to cancer registry manager for Medical Record Associates in Wellesley, Mass. In September,

Freeman released an educational webinar, "The ABCs of ICDs," to guide staff who use the International Classification of Diseases to compile cancer data.

Anil Kumar '99, president of ASciS (Applied Sciences and Information Systems) and its iSportsman software, has been recognized by the Virginia Commonwealth STEM Industry Internship Program for creating real-world experience for students via its robust internship program. Kumar's minority-owned business focuses services to tribal entities and the Department of Defense.

2000s

Gregory C. Hutchings Jr. '00 (profiled in summer 2020) resigned as superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools last summer to work toward dismantling systemic racism in American public schools at a national level. His educational consulting company is called Revolutionary ED LLC. His book, "Getting into Good Trouble at School, A Guide to Building an Antiracist School System" (Corwin, 2022), teaches and inspires educators to create systems of educational equity and antiracist policies that benefit all students.

Melanie Kay-Wyatt (M.S.Ed. '00) was appointed superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools in May. She joined the school system in 2021 as chief of human resources and had been named interim superintendent last summer.

Marsha Myers '00, who has worked 25 years for HCA Healthcare, in July became chief executive officer of Mission Hospital McDowell, an HCA division in Marion, N.C. She is a board-certified radiologic technologist and radiation therapist and Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



LaKishah White '00 said she was "honored to ... serve my hometown" when she was hired in May 2022 as director of human resources for the city of Petersburg, Va. She had worked

20 years in HR with Bon Secours Mercy Health System in Richmond.

Sherry Wilson (M.S.Ed. '02) was hired as assistant superintendent for human resources in Fairfax County Public Schools in June 2022. Wilson implemented such programs as "Grow Your Own" and HBCU Ambassadors to recruit and retain staff when she was director of human resources for Chesapeake Public Schools.

Eric Collins '03 has joined the Rome Floyd Chamber in Georgia as director of programs. He will lead the chamber's diversity and inclusion program as well as community leadership initiatives, leveraging his 20 years' work in juvenile justice and the public schools in the Appalachian community.

Brent Watts '03 has a job that changes as often as, well, the weather. As chief meteorologist for WDBJ7 in Roanoke, Va., Watts has supplied lifesaving forecasts for 25 years when tornadoes, floods and winter storms threaten the Roanoke Valley. He won Emmys for a retrospective on the flood of 1985 and a special on Hurricane Michael, which came ashore in Florida as a Category 5 in 2018.

Attorney Dameon Rivers '04 joined Troutman Pepper in March 2022 to work with its Multifamily Housing Finance Practice Group in Washington, D.C. Rivers has a national real estate finance practice, with special expertise in affordable and senior housing.

Anthony Smallwood (M.E.M. '04) has been assigned by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission since June 2022 to be the second resident inspector for the Entergy Grand Gulf nuclear power plant in Port Gibson, Miss. A Navy veteran, Smallwood previously worked as an engineer in the auto, gas and oil industries.

Jim Blanton (M.P.A. '05) in September traveled up the Blue Ridge Parkway from Buncomb County Public Libraries in Asheville, N.C., to become director of libraries for Roanoke County in Virginia. He has worked in libraries in North Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia for more than 20 years.

Academic Awards

Graduates of ODU's Darden School of Education and Professional Studies nearly swept the district-level Teacher of the Year awards for Chesapeake Public Schools in March 2022.

Tim Schneider (M.S.Ed. '07) won Chesapeake Schools Teacher of the Year. He teaches English to seventh graders at Great Bridge Middle School.

Esther Barleh-Agyei '03 (M.S.Ed. '16), a life science teacher at Indian River Middle, received middle school honors; and

Joseph Blacketer (M.S.Ed. '11), a social studies teacher at Grassfield High, brought in honors as High School Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations!

The Old Dominion University Alumni Association (ODUAA) announced its 2022 Distinguished Alumni and Outstanding Alumni honorees in October. Graduates are chosen for the extraordinary honors that their accomplishments bring to ODU.

In 2022, ODUAA recognized Distinguished Alumni **Penney Azcarate '88**, Circuit Court judge, Fairfax County; **Kelly Till '94**, president and publisher, Richmond Times-Dispatch; and **Kamau Witherspoon '02**, chief executive officer, Shipt. Virginia Lt. Gov. **Winsome Earle-Sears '92** won top honors as the 2022 Outstanding Alumnus.

Maines is connecting people in Virginia Beach

When **Jake Maines '15** was an officer at Lambda Chi Alpha, he helped launch Beach Bash, now an annual event introducing students to fraternities and sororities.

In August 2021, Maines, who operates Jake Maines Realty in Virginia Beach, launched a different kind of bash. His Networking Social Hours (NetworkingHH.com) meet 5 to 8 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at a restaurant, bar or brewery in the city. They attract about 60 people.



In part, the happy hours are “a strategy to stay top of mind with people who might eventually purchase real estate,” said Maines, who received a degree in marketing and is a former digital marketing manager for Foreign Staffing and Array Digital.

But he also wanted to provide “a different vibe” for professionals and business owners to hang out and build relationships. “There’s no agenda,” he said. “You don’t have to register with any organization, and nobody’s shoving a business card in your hand.”

Hocque Figueroa '13 has been going since October 2021. “If you’re looking to grow your network in Virginia Beach, it’s perfect,” said Figueroa, co-owner of F45 Training Red Mill, a boutique group fitness franchise. “What I love about Jake’s happy hours is there are people from all walks of life. It’s a way to meet very diverse people in one setting.”

At Old Dominion, Maines won a Selfless Helper award for his work at Lambda Chi Alpha, where he served as president for two years and recruitment chair. He’s remained committed to service.

Maines volunteers with Lynnhaven River Now, an environmental nonprofit, and the Noblemen, a Virginia Beach organization that helps children. Once a quarter, Maines raises money for a charity during the social hour. Beneficiaries include Hope for Life Rescue, an animal shelter, and the Polar Plunge, a Special Olympics event. He also ran the 100-mile Blackbeard’s Revenge 100 on the Outer Banks in March.

“For as long as I can remember, I’ve had an itch to discover my full potential,” Maines said. “Fortunately, there is no ceiling when it comes to potential, so many of my plans feel like a ride on the Willy Wonka elevator – pushing past what I ever thought possible.”

— Philip Walzer

Katie Caton (M.S.N. '05, D.N.P. '12), a nurse practitioner, joined Outer Banks Hospital’s hematology/oncology department in Nags Head, N.C., in August. She previously worked for Sentara Brock Cancer Center in Norfolk, Va.



Capt. Matthew C. Riethmiller (M.E.M. '05) in July became the commanding officer for the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Mid-Atlantic in ceremonies aboard the USS Bataan in Norfolk, Va..

Donna Henry (M.S.Ed. '07) began her school year by moving into the principal’s office of Portsmouth Catholic Regional School. She had been assistant principal since 2010 and a classroom teacher at the school since 1994.

Tosin Kasali '07 in May 2022 was named vice president of business development for HMS Host, based in Bethesda, Md. He will focus on the global restaurateur’s airport markets.

Wendy Vachet '07, a certified planner for nearly 30 years, has been named redevelopment director for Gary, Ind. She was a manager with Michael Baker International, an engineering and consulting firm.

Paul Olson (M.B.A. '08) has been promoted to chief operating officer at ALPOLIC, a division of Mitsubishi Chemical America, which manufactures a lightweight composite architectural material in Chesapeake, Va..



Karey Malyszko (M.E.M. '09) was promoted to vice president of plant operations at Huntington Ingalls Industries in January 2022. She is based at Newport News

Shipbuilding and has held technical and nuclear engineering management jobs since joining the company in 2004 as a structural engineer for the Navy’s newest aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford.

Now she's multitasking for Norfolk's mayor

For **Noell Saunders (M.P.A. '21)**, who started work last July as executive assistant to Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander '90, her previous jobs as TV reporter and PR specialist at Old Dominion University have come in handy.

"I'm able to multitask and shift very quickly," Saunders, 35, said. "I can read a room and if the situation is different from what you prepared for, I can say to my boss, 'We should pivot and talk about this.'"

Saunders, who grew up in New York and New Jersey, was a broadcast journalist for four years, working at stations in New York, Macon, Georgia, and Roanoke. "But I didn't know if I wanted to do this forever," she said. And she *did* want to go back to school. So in 2016, she came to ODU, working first as a marketing and PR specialist and later as assistant director of the annual fund.

She enrolled in the M.B.A. program but switched to public administration. "I realized I wasn't into Wall Street. I was more into Main Street. I said,

'Public service? I can do that. I can talk. I like people.'"

Saunders credits Ron Carlee, assistant professor of public service, for "being really honest about the history of where we are today" in his courses. "He gave us the good, bad and ugly, from slavery to now."

In her job with the city, she's basically always on call. Her responsibilities include speechwriting, compiling briefings, and writing or editing letters and resolutions. She also serves as the mayor's liaison to city departments and community groups.

"I really like being able to engage with people in the community," she said. But planning is key. "The last-minute stuff doesn't work."

Alexander, she said, "genuinely cares about the people around him and wants them to succeed." The mayor, in turn, said: "I am proud that Noell has chosen to join Team Norfolk. As a journalist, with a public administration education from ODU, she brings a unique skill set, talent and drive that tremendously benefits the city and its residents."



She's not sure where her career will lead – maybe advocacy for youth, maybe civil rights law. "I want to help people who feel they don't have voices," she said.

— Philip Walzer

2010s

Chanelle Reese '10 in May 2022 was named university ombudsperson for the University of Iowa. She held the associate ombudsperson's job at the University of California, Merced.



Hector Sanchez '10, an assistant district attorney for major crimes in Knoxville, Tenn., was sworn in as Knox County Criminal Court's newest judge in October. He is a

former Marine Corps sergeant and the first Hispanic trial court judge in Tennessee. Sanchez was appointed by Gov. Bill Lee to fill a vacancy and will serve until the August 2024 general election.



Ahmet Can Sabuncu (Ph.D. '11), assistant teaching professor of mechanical and materials engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, received the Romeo

L. Moruzzi Young Faculty Award in April 2022. Sabuncu's passion is solving real-world problems through entrepreneurial and innovative engineering.

Joshua Weinstein '11 brought history to life in Norfolk's Elmwood Cemetery as a volunteer leading tours and raising funds for graveyard restoration. In 2018, he turned that knack into a for-profit venture, Norfolk Tour Company, and now invites groups to explore Norfolk's nooks and crannies with him. Most popular tours are to the NEON District and Historic Freemason neighborhood.

Cecilia Carter '12 joined the Virginia Department of Forensic Science as a forensic laboratory specialist in September. Carter has an extensive background in laboratory sciences and previously was a medical technologist at Genetworx in Glen Allen, Va.

Christopher English '12 was named head of school for Roycemore School in Evanston, Ill., to start the new school year. He has held similar top roles at academies in Wichita, Kan., Kansas City, Mo., and Mount Pleasant, Utah.

Julia Simo '12 left the Virginia Department of Transportation in 2020 and now uses her decade of experience in civil and structural transportation engineering as project manager for Wallace Montgomery LLC in Richmond, Va. She has led the company's use of 3D models in the design process, saving both time and money.



He's the top local fundraiser for Relay for Life

Norman Soroko '78 last year was named the top fundraiser for Relay for Life in South Hampton Roads, collecting \$14,100. In the past 10 years, he has raised more than \$335,000 for the American Cancer Society event.

"I owe it all to my followers who support me," Soroko said. "I have people who send me checks before I even ask them for money." He also organizes successful "dough-raisers" with Uno Pizzeria & Grill in Norfolk.

Soroko, who received his degree in business administration, is a retired credit card specialist for Bank of America and Citigroup. He first got involved with Relay for Life in 1996

with his division at what was then NationsBank.

He started his own team, called the Lone Ranger, in 2002.

"When you talk to him, the passion is pouring out of him," said Jennifer Waldholtz (M.S.Ed. '15), the American Cancer Society's director for estate and gift planning for Virginia and West Virginia. "His relationship-building skills and his email system are amazing and absolutely contribute to his incredibly successful fundraising efforts. The American Cancer Society is so lucky to have Norman in our corner."

He's walked in all the relays he's raised money for – the last was at Chesapeake City Park – except in 2021, when he was recovering from back surgery. But that didn't stop him from fundraising that year.

In addition, he's the regional accounting co-chair for Relay for Life and has been involved in the accounting process for 12 years, including eight years overseeing the accounting for ODU's Relay.

"I do this mostly to honor my mother's three sisters, who all died of cancer," Soroko said. "I also have friends who either survived it or are gone."

His charitable activities extend beyond Relay for Life. Soroko is president of the Jewish Museum & Cultural Center in Portsmouth and president-elect of Temple Israel in Norfolk. "I enjoy giving back to the community," he said.

Soroko's Relay for Life Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/donate/419673570230069/5665632160141913/>

– Philip Walzer



Carole Everhart (D.N.P. '13) of Cana, Va., received the American Association of Nurse Practitioners' highest honor, its Award for Excellence in Virginia, in 2022. She and her late

mother, Delphine "Dee" Everhart (D.N.P. '13), opened Everhart Primary Health Care in 2012 to provide affordable medical care to underserved residents of rural Southwest Virginia and Northwest North Carolina. Beyond the clinic, Everhart is seeking legislative approval for a bigger role for nurse practitioners, which would increase access to medical care for more Virginians.



Sesha Joi Moon (Ph.D. '13) was appointed director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for the U.S. House of Representatives in June 2022 by former House Speaker

Nancy Pelosi. She held a similar position at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Moon and her sister, Enjoli Moon, from Richmond, created The JXN Project to teach the history of Jackson Ward, a National Historic Landmark District that was a hub for African American commerce after Emancipation.

Krystal Atkinson (D.N.P. '14) became chief administrative officer for Mon Health Medical Center in Morgantown, W.Va., in August, promoted from a role as chief nursing executive and senior vice president with the health system.

David Schmidt (M.S.Ed. '14) took the next step in his Catholic faith and was ordained a priest in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh on June 25, 2022. After earning two degrees in sport management, Schmidt entered the priestly formation program in 2015.

R. Battle Betts Jr. (M.P.A. '15) came on board as president and CEO of the Obici Healthcare Foundation in August. Before Betts left his previous job as health director of Albemarle Regional Health Services, he was honored as the 2022 North Carolina Health Director of the Year, an award given by the N.C. Association of Local Health Directors.

Jordan Carneal '15 is now an engineering designer for VLMK Engineering + Design in Portland, Ore. For the past six years, he focused on disaster preparedness in beachfront, hurricane-prone areas for his job with a North Carolina structural engineering firm. Now it's all about the rain.

Cassie Lewis (D.N.P. '15) was promoted in February 2022 to chief nursing and quality officer for Bon Secours nursing operations in Hampton Roads. She previously managed nursing operations for several Bon Secours Mercy Health facilities in Ohio, Kentucky and Virginia.

In May 2022, **Janice Underwood (Ph.D. '15)** was appointed by President Biden to become director of the federal Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility,

based in Washington, D.C. She served from 2019 until 2022 as Virginia's first-ever chief diversity officer, a position created by former Gov. Ralph Northam, and prior to that, in a similar role at ODU.

Christie Cremo (M.S.Ed. '16), former principal of Washington District Elementary in Oak Grove, Va., started the 2022 school year as principal of Leverett Elementary, in Fayetteville, Ark.



Daquan Styles' '16 (M.E.M. '21) two-week assignment to install Ship Self-Defense System upgrades aboard aircraft carriers and amphibious ships

based on the West Coast evolved into a six-month mission away from home during the pandemic. His service was recognized last year with the Most Promising Engineer in Government award, given to early career engineers. Styles is an electrical engineer in the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division combat readiness systems division at Dam Neck in Virginia Beach.

Tierra Dillard '17 was promoted to director of the Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center in July. Hired as a dispatcher in 2008, she had been deputy director for the past five years and became the first Black and female director to lead the emergency command center.

Alumni feed the streets of Richmond

In 2016, a bunch of young adults, including a half-dozen Monarchs, saw homelessness all around them in Richmond, Va. They raised money to feed and provide blankets and scarves to 90 people.

“We said, ‘We can’t stop now,’” said Cory Jones '14. “There’s a bigger need in our community.”

They established a nonprofit, FeedTheStreetsRVA, which has provided more than 3,400 meals to homeless people. But “we wanted to create a community that responds to the basic needs of all,” said Jones, the executive director. So they branched out to help low-income people with housing.

The organization has fed thousands more across the city, where nearly 25% of residents live in poverty, providing hot meals, bagged lunches and groceries at churches, shelters and other locations. They’ve also supplied more than 1,500 angel tree holiday gifts to children and 335 baskets for Thanksgiving.

Beneficiaries are grateful not just for the food. “They say, ‘Thank you for taking the time to talk to me,’” said Alexis Stevens, the publicity director. “‘You asked my name.’” Stevens isn’t a Monarch, but her brother, Desmond '13, the events coordinator, is.

Last year, the board wanted “to create something more permanent for folks,” said Tamra Gore '14, the vice president. So it established a Hygiene Pantry outside Mount Olivet Church, where it previously put up a basketball court. The motto: “Take what you need; leave what you can.”

The supplies in the cabinet include shampoo, COVID tests, masks and tampons. “Sometimes,” Gore said, “a little



(From left): Alexis Stevens, Kiara Thompson '13 (M.P.A. '15), Cory Jones '14, Tamra Gore '14, Anais Fritz '14, Deanna Jones '14

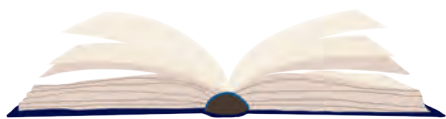
deodorant, a little smell-good, can go a long way,” even improving mental health.

A recent project, City Kids, encourages middle schoolers to volunteer with FeedTheStreetsRVA and other organizations. “It’s so important to build the next generation of leaders to ensure our work continues down the line,” said Kiara Thompson '13 (M.P.A. '15), director of operations.

FeedTheStreetsRVA operates through grants and donations, and board members serve as volunteers. The other alumni on the board are Anais Fritz '14, the marketing coordinator, and Deanna Jones '14, the family engagement coordinator.

— Philip Walzer

To find out more or to contribute to FeedTheStreetsRVA, email feedthestreetsrva@gmail.com



ALUMNI AUTHORS

"Ghostflowers" by **Rus Wornom '81** (JournalStone). A waitress falls for a motorcycle-riding Vietnam veteran who rides into a small Virginia town during the summer of 1971. Wornom's novel mixes the supernatural, a "message written in blood" and "secrets in the woods."

"Cats in the Navy" by **Scot Christenson '96** (Naval Institute Press). Cats have served not just as rat catchers on ships and docks but also as mascots, Christenson says. His book, which covers folklore and superstitions, includes more than 80 photos of cats, some in uniforms.

"Preaching Without Borders: The Challenges and Blessings of Expository Preaching in a Multi-Ethnic Church" by **Ryan Roach '06** (Wipf and Stock). Roach, lead pastor of First Baptist Alcoa in Tennessee, and Steven Mathewson discuss the challenges preachers face to stay true to the text of the Bible while attempting to inspire multi-ethnic congregations.

"Mustique Island" by **Sarah McCoy (M.F.A. '07)** (William Morrow). In her latest novel, McCoy, the author of "Marilla of Green Gables," features a divorced beauty queen who encounters the "dark side" of a private Caribbean island during a visit with her daughters. McCoy was profiled in the winter 2020 issue of Monarch magazine.

"Mi Libro de Español— Primer Grado: My First Spanish Book" by **Vivian Hoyle-Lane '09** (Dorrance). Hoyle-Lane, a native of Peru and a former Spanish teacher, provides a series of lessons to introduce first graders to Spanish and build their reading and comprehension skills.

"Not Mary Not Roe: The Survival Story of a Reluctant Teen Mom" by **Leslie Hope Holthoff '11** (Merack). Holthoff uses her experience as a teenage parent to challenge society to do a better job of teaching young people about sex and helping – without judging – "children who have children."

Jessica Ham '17 in April 2022 leveraged 14 years' experience in human resources and training to become senior vice president of human resources for Touchstone



Bankshares Inc. in Prince George, Va.

Le Andra Kissinger (Minor) (M.E.M. '17), currently serving as executive officer aboard the USS Philippine Sea stationed in Norfolk,

Va., already has orders for her next job. She will become captain of the USS Beloit when it is commissioned in 2024. The new littoral combat ship will undergo tests and sea trials in the meantime.

Sam Goodwyn '18 reports that in April 2022, he landed the sports editor's job for the Weatherford Democrat newspaper in Weatherford, Texas, about 25 miles west of Fort Worth. Now he can live his own version of "Friday Night Lights."

Her Journee



Daphne Fulson '10, '13 (M.S.Ed. '22), Virginia Teacher of the Year in 2021, produced yet another accomplishment in her life when Baby Journee was born in 2022. Fulson's award-winning style in the classroom was profiled in the summer 2022 Monarch.



Christopher Wikstrom (Ph.D. '18) has been hired as vice president of academic and student success services at Patrick & Henry Community College. He is a former math teacher

in Southwest Virginia public schools and college professor at Patrick & Henry.

Richard George '19 has been promoted to brand and development manager at The Breeden Co. in Virginia Beach, Va. He was Breeden's corporate media strategist.



Morgan Willett '19, former public services coordinator for Keep Norfolk Beautiful, is now assistant director for the Elizabeth River Trail Foundation.

The trail runs 10.5 miles along the Norfolk, Va., waterfront from Terminal Boulevard, south past the ODU campus, and ends at Norfolk State University.

Alexa Wolf '19 has been hired as a marketing and events specialist for ProSource, a specialty and consumer electronics service company. Wolf is based in Harrisonburg, Va., and will help manage company events, digital marketing and social media.

2020s

Heather Whitchurch (M.Ed. '21) was promoted to principal of Peninsula Catholic School in Newport News, Va., in April 2022 after serving as interim principal since January 2022.

For 10 Monarchs, a triumphant Carnegie debut



Upper row: Jack Mallery (M.Ed. '76), Ben Dickson '75 and Lewis Tharp. Middle row: Mary Lou Speckheuer '89 (M.Ed. '00) and Vickie Dickson (M.Ed. '77). Lower row: Pearl Moyers Dean '73 (M.A. '80), Arlene Wright and Peggy Tharp. Not pictured: Beth Lape (M.Ed. '88, Ph.D. '16) and Larry Ward.

PHOTO BY HELMUT SPECKHEUER

Vickie Dickson (M.Ed. '77) was “awestruck.” Mary Lou Speckheuer '89 (M.Ed. '00) found it “a fantastic experience.” Beth Lape (M.Ed. '88, Ph.D. '16) compared it to being “in a dream state.”

They and seven other alumni and former students sang at Carnegie Hall last July, representing Virginia Voices International. The 55-member group was founded in Virginia Beach, Va., in 2000 to “bring the love of Jesus Christ outside the church,” said director Mary Lyon Camper (who is not an alumna).

Virginia Voices International sings mostly Christian, Broadway and patriotic music. The ensemble has performed in such countries as Ukraine, Guatemala and Russia as well as U.S. cities from Las Vegas to Charleston, S.C.

At Carnegie Hall, 25 singers from Virginia Voices, together with other church groups, performed for two hours. They sang three works in the presence of the composers:

“The Weaver,” which portrays God’s creation of the world; the premiere of “Triumph of Faith: The Musical Story of Esther,” and “The Parting Prayer.”

Ben Dickson '75 called it “some of the most technically difficult music we ever sang.”

The evening was dreamlike, said Lape, who organized the trip, because “under the glare of the spotlights, you could see the balcony, but you couldn’t see the people on the floor.”

The group stayed at the Sheraton Times Square and rehearsed at the nearly 400-year-old Marble Collegiate Church, once led by the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale.

All of the singers who performed at Carnegie also enjoyed a post-concert dinner cruise. “It was the perfect ending to our visit,” Speckheuer said. “When we approached the Statue of Liberty, we burst into ‘God Bless America,’ and most of us were in tears.”

— Philip Walzer

Hot Dog! They’re married!

Janki Gajera '13 and **Benjamin McDermott '13** met in an English class for scientific and technical writing at ODU, but their relationship really blossomed on campus and over a shared love for Perfectly Frank’s hot dogs.

They met in 2009 and have been together since. On July 22, 2020, Gajera and McDermott eloped to Norfolk, Va., to celebrate where their relationship began. After getting married at the Norfolk Courthouse, they took wedding photographs at favorite Norfolk sites, including, of course, their “favorite food joint” on Monarch Way.

Now settled in Charlottesville, Gajera, who majored in applied math, is a software engineer. McDermott, who earned an electrical engineering degree, is a technical product manager. Both are working on master’s degrees in computer science remotely through Georgia Tech and will graduate in May 2024.

“ODU is so important to us for many reasons, and we loved every single moment of our wedding (and our time at ODU) so much!” says Gajera.



Received Oct. 1, 2021 – April 15, 2022

Ruth C. Carr '42 of Williamsburg, Va., 12/7/21

Constance Anninos Lord '45 of Nashville, Tenn., 2/8/22

Reginald B. Henry Jr. '46 of Norfolk, Va., 3/29/22

Ethel P. Goldman '47 of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/8/21

Ralph D. Katherman '47 of Norfolk, Va., 10/9/21

Betty M. Owen '47 of Norfolk, Va., 11/8/21

Henry M. Schwan '47 of Norfolk, Va., 2/2/22

Virginia H. Lampert '48 of Norfolk, Va., 11/4/21

Bernard L. Bryant Jr. '50 of Chapel Hill, N.C., 2/28/22

Charles P. Fletcher '50 of Virginia Beach, Va., 2/9/22

Raymond L. Harper '50 of Chesapeake, Va., 2/2/22

Frederick J. Dean III '51 of Virginia Beach, Va., 3/30/22

Freida L. Goldstein '51 of Norfolk, Va., and Virginia Beach, Va., 12/18/21

William C. Hughes '51 of Virginia Beach, Va., 11/2/21

Lawrence Lee Oldaker '51 of Juneau, Alaska, 8/1/21

Geraldine B. Sawyer '52 of Chesapeake, Va., 3/16/22

William T. Gatling Jr. '53 of Portsmouth, Va., 2/3/22

Elizabeth S. Harrington '53 of Spotsylvania, Va., 1/19/22

James R. Halstead '54 of Sanford, Fla., 12/31/21

Capt. Charles R. Buffkin, USN (Ret) '55 of Virginia Beach, Va., 2/22/22

Marvin L. Chaplin '56 of Stuarts Draft, Va., 10/6/21

Lt. Cmdr. Sylvester D. Brown III, USN (Ret) '57 of Virginia Beach, Va., 3/18/22

Donald E. Craig '58 (M.S. '67) of Cocoa Beach, Fla., 10/4/21

Henry L. Harrell Jr. '58 of Norfolk, Va., and Florence, Ky., 4/1/22

Ethlyn F. Howard '59 of Portsmouth, Va., and Wellesley, Mass., 1/9/22

Robert T. Rose '60 of Portsmouth, Va., 2/10/22

Charles L. Supan Sr. '60 of Austin, Texas, 11/27/21

Norman E. Gebo '61 of Pocomoke City, Md., 1/27/22

Arthur Dale King '61 of Portsmouth, Va., 1/22/22

Betty M. Ward '61 of Virginia Beach, Va., 2/1/22

Bonnie T. Huff '62 of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/1/21

Philip P. Purrington Jr. '62 of Virginia Beach, Va., 2/14/22

Tommy C. Steele '62 of Yorktown, Va., 12/25/21

Judith B. Walker (M.S.Ed. '62) of Chesapeake, Va., 10/23/21

Maj. Michael F. White, USAF (Ret) '62 of Williamsburg, Va., 3/25/22

L. Elizabeth Edler '63 (M.M.E. '05) of Norfolk, Va., 1/23/22

Juanita J. Whitaker '63 (M.A. '68) of Williamsburg, Va., 10/3/21

Dale C. Daulton '64 (M.A. '84) of Portsmouth, Va., 3/16/22

S. Franklin Duncan Jr. '64 of Seven Valleys, Pa., 11/22/21

Jean T. Hachey '64 of Ashland, Va., 12/1/21

Phyllis M. Lee '64 (M.S.Ed. '71) of Norfolk, Va., 11/23/21

Col. Jesse J. Lewis Jr., USAR (Ret) '64 of Fort Smith, Ark., 3/25/22

Plato P. Mathews '64 of Chesapeake, Va., 2/5/22

Harold Pollack '64 of Norfolk, Va., 2/9/22

Catherine C. Hazelwood '65 of Yorktown, Va., 4/8/22

Cmdr. Francis A. Bruno, USNR (Ret) '66 of Williamsburg, Va., 3/23/22

Jerry D. Killmon '66 of Craddockville, Va., 11/1/21

Shirlee J. Little '66 of Portsmouth, Va., 3/22/22

Robert D. Murrell '66 of Suffolk, Va., 1/8/22

Barry A. Rich '67 of Virginia Beach, Va., 3/31/22

Berkley E. Ashby (M.S.Ed. '68, C.A.S. '72, Ph.D. '92) of Belle Haven, Va., 11/5/21

Susan Broaddus '68 of Norfolk, Va., 12/3/21

James A. Fields '68 of Norfolk, Va., 12/17/21

James W. Gmitter '68 of Myrtle Beach, S.C., 1/9/22

Rebecca M. Goshorn '68 of Richmond, Va., 3/12/22

Robert O. Jenkins Sr. '68 of Columbia, Md., 1/4/22

Charles M. Salle '68 of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/20/21

Phillip A. Ungar '68 of Bridgewater, Va., 10/23/21

C. Ray Vaughan '68 of Madison, N.C., 11/12/21

Jerry C. Whitehurst '68 of Virginia Beach, Va., 2/4/22

Thomas K. Barnes '69 of Virginia Beach, Va., 8/22/21

Antonia C. Chandler '69 of Fredericksburg, Va., 10/7/21

Francine T. Findley '69 of Fairfax, Va., 1/20/22

Betty O. Harrison '69 of Chesapeake, Va., 11/29/21

Barbara A. Purcell '69 of Mercer Island, Wash., 10/8/21

Georgette Vitez Renz '69 (M.S.Ed. '75) of Norfolk, Va., 4/2/22

William H. Bailey Jr. '70 of Portsmouth, Va., 12/24/21

Bruce M. Burnside '70 (M.S.Ed. '72) of Norfolk, Va., 12/25/21

Robert E. Hawkins III '70 of Newport News, Va., 1/5/22

Sharon L. Hildebrand '70 of Virginia Beach, Va., 1/28/22

Mary Margaret S. Johnston (M.S.Ed. '70) of Houston, Texas, 11/20/21

Walter T. Keays '70 of Vienna, Va., 11/25/21

Bonnie E. Prestridge '70 of Virginia Beach, Va., 11/2/21

Carolyn F. Reil '70 of Newtown, Conn., 11/12/19

John G. Reveley III (M.S.Ed. '70) of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/24/21

April S. Tynch '70 (M.S.Ed. '72) of Portsmouth, Va., 4/6/22

Catherine J. Tyndall '70 of Hampton, Va., 12/5/21

Ethel R. Arrington '71 of Norfolk, Va., 10/10/21

Maury B. Brickhouse '71 of Chesapeake, Va., 2/8/22

Melinda G. Forbes '71 of Virginia Beach, Va., 3/24/22

Dorinda A. Forehand '71 of Chesapeake, Va., 12/20/21

Willard R. Hudgins III '71 of Quinton, Va., 1/24/22

James T. Maughan '71 of Reading, Mass., 9/30/21

Marianne M. Michaels '71 of Virginia Beach, Va., 1/11/22

Lt. Col. Richard J. Scherberger, USA (Ret) '71 of Madison, Ala., 12/21/21

Joanne L. Walsh '71 (M.E. '73) of Newport News, Va., 10/12/21

George F. Bone '72 of Norfolk, Va., 10/20/21

Jane C. Chavis (M.S.Ed. '72) of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Portsmouth, Va., 12/10/21

William R. Creech Jr. '72 of Boiling Springs, S.C., 11/26/21

Joan P. Taylor '72 of Hampstead, N.C., 3/21/22

Allen P. Blackmon '73 of Oswego, Ill., 10/20/21

Rodney A. Cobbs '73 of Richmond, Va., 10/6/21

Gene R. Cocke (M.S. '73) of Bedford, Va., 1/9/22

Ann Randolph Scott Doom '73 of Smithfield, Va., 1/15/22

Rebecca D. Fawcett '73 (M.S.Ed. '93) of Portsmouth, Va., 3/29/22

Georgia L. Lambert '73 of Brentwood, Calif., 9/24/21

Marian C. Leavitt '73 of Norfolk, Va., 1/22/22

C. Ann Manning '73 of Minneapolis, Minn., 3/3/22

Gary E. Rowe '73 of Midlothian, Va., 1/29/22

William T. Tinsley '73 of Hampton, Va., 11/7/21

Albert L. Brockington '74 of Norfolk, Va., 2/13/22

Jeanine B. Hughes '74 of Hampton, Va., 10/26/21

Walter D. Merritt Sr. '74 of Goldsboro, N.C., 7/14/21

Nell B. Richardson (M.S.Ed. '74, C.A.S. '81) of Portsmouth, Va., 1/19/22

C. Michael Finch '75 (M.S.Ed. '78) of Pinellas Park, Fla., 1/25/22

Manford C. Goodell Jr. '75 of Virginia Beach, Va., 1/6/21

Nina C. Hartman '75 (M.S.Ed. '02) of Norfolk, Va., 11/5/21

Lt. Cmdr. Richard W. Reeks, USN (Ret) (M.S.Ed. '75) of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/14/21

Jack E. Simonik '75 of Hillsborough, N.J., 9/26/21

B. Jeffrey Barnes '76 of Roanoke, Va., 12/14/21

Gary L. Benn '76 of Chesapeake, Va., 11/12/21

Mary D. Cartledge '76 of Virginia Beach, Va., 3/17/22

Richard T. Decker '76 of Suffolk, Va., 10/14/21

Ernest M. Horeth (M.E. '76) of Hampton, Va. and Orlando, Fla., 1/31/22

Jesse D. Mayhew '76 (M.E. '78) of Lexington, Va., 12/13/21

Patricia L. Mintz '76 of Estill Springs, Tenn., 10/19/21

Jack K. Moulton Jr. '76 of Willis, Va., 3/31/22

Sherry H. Mullins '76 of Haltom City, Texas, 11/28/21

Theresa Vanderploeg Perkins '76 of Norfolk, Va., 1/30/22

Wanda S. Prazeres '76 of Norfolk, Va., 11/20/21

Michael S. Smith (M.B.A. '76) of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., 1/28/22

Penelope A. Surdoval '76 of Scranton, Pa., 10/10/21

Susan L. Swanson (M.S.Ed. '76) '83 (M.S.Ed. '87) of Orleans, Mass., 12/5/21

From skating coach to history professor

FRAN JACOBSON '83 (M.A. '90, Ph.D. '08)

wasn't your typical history professor. Early on, she taught something else entirely – figure roller skating. She didn't earn her bachelor's degree until she was 40 and her Ph.D. at 66.

But she always loved history, said her daughter, JJ Jacobson-Allen '90 (M.P.A. '00). "She challenged students to think. She didn't want them to memorize and regurgitate dates."

Jacobson, who retired in 2017 as professor of history at Tidewater Community College, died on March 23, 2022, at the age of 79.

Connie Jones, who formerly taught history at TCC, said she shared with Jacobson the belief that "if you know more history, you're a much better judge of what's going on in the world politically." Jacobson "loved bright colors," Jones said, "and she was a brightly colored person in the sense that she was not pale or retiring. She was very strong of opinion and direct in her political views."

Jacobson, who'd been a successful roller skater as a teenager, coached a handful of national champions. In her late 30s, she began classes at Old Dominion.

"She loved her experience at ODU," said her daughter, the director of legal operations for Dollar Tree. "Everybody welcomed her at her age." Jacobson majored in history and graduated summa cum laude, embarrassed by her one A-minus. But she couldn't find a job that paid more than minimum wage, so she continued coaching.

Jacobson wanted more education, so she went back for her master's in history – which she received the same year her daughter earned her bachelor's in political science – and then her doctorate in international studies.

She joined TCC as an adjunct instructor and went full time in 1997. She was active in promoting global education and served on the President's Advisory and Planning Council.

In retirement, she became more active at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Norfolk. Jacobson edited a book commemorating the church's centennial, ran the flower festival and served on the vestry and altar guild.

"She was a deeply, religiously faithful person, without wearing it on her sleeve," said Jones, who serves as priest associate at St. Andrew's. As in the classroom, "she was known around church for speaking her mind clearly and without equivocation."

— Philip Walzer



Rachel C. Hopkins (M.S.Ed. '77) of Norfolk, Va., and Fort Walton Beach, Fla., 1/8/22

Stephen T. O'Toole '77 of Alexandria, Va., 12/5/21

Bruce M. Schmidt '77 of Midlothian, Va., 12/19/21

Charlene A. Skehan '77 of Washington, D.C., 1/10/22

Diane W. Willoughby '77 of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/29/21

Hunter W. Blake Jr. '78 of Chesapeake, Va., 2/11/22

Melanie V. Burke '78 of Norfolk and Suffolk, Va., 3/7/22

Steve A. Bynum Sr. (M.S.Ed. '78) of Chesapeake, Va., 4/8/22

Gaybrooke G. Crittenden (M.S.Ed. '78) of Newport News, Va., 2/7/22

Irene B. Newsome (M.S.Ed. '78) of Virginia Beach, Va., 10/31/21

J. Sherrie Potter-Baldwin '78 of Virginia Beach, Va., 1/20/22

Cleveland D. Turner Sr. '78 of Emporia, Va., 3/5/22

Janis N. Hollenback (M.S.Ed. '79) of Jacksonville, Fla., 9/21/21

Clarice A. Oulahan '79 of Portsmouth, Va., 12/19/21

Lucynthia J. Rawls '79 of Virginia Beach, Va., 1/4/22

Patricia Brock Robertson (M.S.Ed. '79) of Virginia Beach, Va., 10/26/21

Edith B. Green '80 of Hampton, Va., 12/14/21

Phillip G. Kennedy '80 of Tazewell, Va., 7/1/21

Henry H. Lackie Jr. '80 of Chesapeake, Va., 1/29/22

John A. Vaughan Jr. (M.B.A. '80) of Williamsburg, Va., 9/22/21

Philip R. Egert (M.B.A. '81) of Hampton, Va., 1/25/22

Columbus Heart '81 of Portsmouth, Va., 10/30/21

Cmdr. James F. Lamore, USN (Ret) (M.B.A. '81) of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/21/21

Stanley W. Miller '81 of Norfolk, Va., 10/11/21

Barbara M. Principe (M.S.Ed. '81) of Smithfield, Va., 2/4/22

Cathy B. Smith '81 of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/17/21

Richard I. Burford (M.S.Ed. '82) of Bloxom, Va., 2/19/22

Jay A. Gelletly '82 of Myrtle Beach, S.C., 10/6/21

Hope J. Harrison (M.S.Ed. '82) of Norfolk, Va., 3/29/22

Holly H. Luning '82 of Virginia Beach, Va., 2/24/22

Alan W. Ormond '82 of Virginia Beach, Va., 10/26/21

Brenda J. Rhea '82 of Hampton, Va., 2/9/22

Albert F. Toulotte Jr. '82 of Spotsylvania, Va., 1/20/22

Don Carlos Hall VI '83 of Poquoson, Va., 1/18/22

Keith W. Quinn '83 of Richmond Hill, Ga., 1/2/22

George A. Thompson Jr. '83 of Crozet, Va., 11/30/21

Lt. Cmdr. Darrell L. Valentine, USN (Ret) '83 of Virginia Beach, Va., 3/11/22

Petra T. Casipit '84 of Occoquan, Va., 12/19/21

M. Jeane Wood '84 (M.A. '89) of Virginia Beach, Va., 11/14/21

Marie Guidobaldi Darrer '85 of Pennsville, N.J., 10/13/21

Michelle L. Eady '85 of Chesapeake, Va., 11/14/21

Iris N. Cooper '86 (M.S.Ed. '88) of Portsmouth, Va., 3/4/22

Essie C. Dozier (M.S.Ed. '86) of Chesapeake, Va., 3/4/22

Patricia A. Jennings '86 of Wailuku, Hawaii, 9/21/21

Joann K. Maleski (M.S.Ed. '86) of Chesapeake, Va., and Colrain, Mass., 3/14/22

Phillip C. Muller '86 of Chatham, Va., 2/22/22

Karen J. Stone '86 of Seaford, Del., and Norfolk, Va., 2/25/22

Harold B. Deese Sr. (M.B.A. '87) of Newport News, Va., 1/8/22

Keith E. Kelly '87 of Charlotte, N.C., 3/15/22

Lynetta A. Nausbaum '87 of Woodbine, Ga., 3/15/22

Karen G. Williams '87 of Columbus, Ga., 12/20/21

Merton S. Bearup '88 of Virginia Beach, Va., 10/9/21

Kimberly W. Brown '88 of Highlands Ranch, Colo., 11/3/21

Joseph T. Peterka (M.S. '88) of Elkhart, Ind., 9/27/21

Lt. Cmdr. Dennis J. Stewart, USN (Ret) (M.S.Ed. '88) of Virginia Beach, Va., 3/9/22

Jean B. Edington '89 of Fredericksburg, Va., 11/24/21

Kenneth W. Robbins '89 of Newport News, Va., 2/1/22

Arnold B. Barr (M.P.A. '90) of Norfolk, Va., 3/3/22

Brenda H. Winn (M.S.Ed. '90) of Virginia Beach, Va., 9/30/21

Norma D. Zunich (M.S. '90) of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/25/21

Glen Q. Navarro '91 of New York City, N.Y., and Newport News, Va., 2/6/22

Michael D. Doran '92 of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/4/21

Alphonso W. Knight Sr. (HON '92) of Hampton, Va., 10/3/21

Michael McChesney '92 of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/4/21

Brian J. Petrauskas '92 of Portsmouth, Va., 11/24/21

Cmdr. Bradley K. Slusher, USN (Ret) (M.B.A. '92) of Chesapeake, Va., 3/4/22

Samuel R. Apperson '93 of Hampton, Va., 3/15/22

Nancy B. Johnston (M.S.Ed. '93) of Chesapeake, Va., 10/30/21

Charles A. Tripp '93 (M.S.Ed. '94) of Akron, Ohio, 2/12/22

Susan Vasoti Ward (M.S.Ed. '93) of Richmond, Va., 10/18/21

Bryan C. Hayes '94 (M.S. '96, Ph.D. '02) of Lincoln, Neb., 2/22/22

Billie Jo McKenzie-Ng '94 (M.S.Ed. '95) of Lexington, S.C., 1/18/22

W. Richard Savage IV '94 of Suffolk, Va., 3/16/22

Richard D. West II (M.B.A. '94) of Virginia Beach, Va., 12/6/21

Mark B. Gilland '96 of Norfolk, Va., 10/22/21

Gary L. Alexander '98 of Chesapeake, Va., 1/22/22

Tara W. Chapman (M.S.Ed. '98) of Mason, Wis., 10/17/21

Bryan C. McCain '98 of Wake Forest, N.C., 2/21/22

Judy M. McKinney '99 of Pikeville, Ky., 2/21/22

Brenda L. Carpenter '00 of Norfolk, Va., 10/13/21

William P. Krupp (Ph.D. '00) of Wake Forest, N.C., 3/23/22

Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Majkut, USN (Ret) (M.S. '00) of Virginia Beach, Va., 9/25/21

Dorothy M. Paxton (M.S.Ed. '00) of Chesapeake, Va., 10/12/21

Chief Warrant Officer Carlos R. Cardoza, USN (Ret) '01 of Chesapeake, Va., 12/27/21

Quintion D. Eaton '01 (M.B.A. '06) of Portsmouth, Va., 9/22/21

Katherine P. King (M.S.Ed. '01) of Peabody, Mass., 10/6/21

Christina D. Tanner '01 of Newport News, Va., 10/18/2021

Betty W. Davis (M.S.N. '02) of Norfolk, Va., 1/1/22

Lori S. Harris (M.E.M. '02) of Chesapeake, Va., 1/3/22

Susan W. Cattenhead '03 of Portsmouth, Va., 10/2/21

Daniel A. Holterman (Ph.D. '03) of Phoenix, Ariz., 9/27/21

Alexandra B. Christle (M.S.Ed. '04) of Norfolk, Va., 10/10/21

Dennis Whitby '04 of Virginia Beach, Va., 2/12/22

His specialties: traffic, kielbasa and chili peppers



At **DANIEL RYDZEWSKI's** funeral, a woman told his youngest brother that Daniel had saved her life.

“She lost her job,” Leo Rydzewski said. “She was down and out, and things weren’t going well for her.” Daniel gave her gift cards to pay for her groceries and drove her to her mother’s home in Florida to restart her life.

“This is what Danny did,” Rydzewski said. “If anybody needed any help, he would go help them. He was selfless.”

Daniel Rydzewski '90, a traffic engineer in Norfolk, Va., died on Jan. 31, 2022. He was 60.

Rydzewski had always been “very, very smart,” his brother said. But he dropped out of Virginia Tech because he was having too much fun. After a few years of odd jobs, Rydzewski enrolled at Old Dominion University in 1988.

“He went down there focused on school, and he shined,” Leo Rydzewski said. “It was like a rebirth for him academically.” Daniel Rydzewski was a member of two engineering honor societies and president of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

ODU also set him on his career path. “He took a couple of courses in transportation engineering, and he liked it,” his brother said.

As the manager of Norfolk’s Smart Traffic Center, “He contributed tremendously to the center’s continuous advancement and worked closely with his counterparts in Hampton Roads to meet the regional goals for improvement,” said Guzin Akan, the former transportation engineer for the city. Rydzewski, she said, had “an immense knowledge in the intelligent transportation field” and was “passionate about the new technology and its application to make our system more feasible and conveyable to the public.”

Outside work, Rydzewski made his own kielbasa, and he belonged to a chili pepper club. “He could stomach them,” his brother said, “but most other people wouldn’t even touch them.” Akan recalled that his fried turkey “was one of the favorite dishes of our Christmas lunches.”

His brother said, “If he was visiting you, he would always bring a gift. And they were thoughtful things. If he knew you liked clams, he would drive 10 miles out of his way to go to a place he knew had the best clams.”

— Philip Walzer

Matthew R. Forrest '05 of Palmyra, Va., 12/5/21

Robert L. James III '05 of Gloucester, Va., 4/7/22

Sarah C. Kleyla '05 of Virginia Beach, Va., 2/23/22

David A. Corona '06 of Virginia Beach, Va., 3/8/22

Sandra L. Draper '06 of Farmville, Va., 10/24/21

Quinton D. Miles Sr. '07 of Richmond, Va., 10/7/21

Jared M. Luffman (M.E. '08) of King George, Va., 11/28/21

Melissa D. Roe-Jones (M.S.Ed. '09) of Poquoson, Va., 1/7/22

William A. VonOhlen '09 of Virginia Beach, Va., 11/3/21

David G. Foster (M.P.A. '10) of Chesapeake, Va., 9/30/21

Archie Lee Hill II '10 of Norfolk, Va., 2/18/22

Melissa Bishop Smith '10 of Oahu, Hawaii, 3/26/22

Constance W. Fentress '11 of Parksley, Va., 3/19/22

Kathleen M. Nelson (M.S.N. '11) of Virginia Beach, Va., 3/23/22

Christopher T. Vece '11 of Virginia Beach, Va., 9/30/21

Erin M. Laffey '12 (M.S.Ed. '20) of Chesapeake, Va., 12/11/21

Rhett C. Sanders Jr. '12 of Norfolk, Va., 3/5/22

Judy L. South '13 (M.S.Ed. '17) of West Point, Va., 10/25/21

Eileen J. Coussens '15 of Virginia Beach, Va., 11/8/21

Rachel M. Morgan '15 of Chesapeake, Va., 2/2/22

Heather A. Schaberg '16 of Heathsville, Va., 10/25/21

Tonya R. Dassel '17 of Virginia Beach, Va., 10/14/21

Eric A. Lips '17 of Hillsborough, N.J., 10/12/21

Janice D. Midkiff '18 of Dugspur, Va., 10/13/21

Lori N. Mingloski '18 of North Chesterfield, Va., 4/6/22

Christian B. Chance '19 of Southern Shores, N.C., 6/10/21

Mathew C. St. Clair '19 of Hampton, Va., 1/27/22

Corey Sargent '19 (M.S. '21) of Virginia Beach, Va., 6/11/22

Brody Beverly '20 of Richmond, Va., 5/4/22

De’Jhan M. Cheek '20 of Amelia, Va., 10/27/21

TAYA BARNETT, a former designer for the Center for Teaching and Learning, died on March 29, 2022, at the age of 68. Barnett worked at Old Dominion from 2006 until her retirement in 2018. She also was a calligrapher and artist.

“Taya was a creative and talented graphic designer dedicated to helping and supporting faculty,” said M’hammed Abdous, assistant vice president for teaching and learning. “Faculty loved working with her.”

JACQUELINE BARROW, the former director of community relations in athletics, died on May 11, 2022. She was 57. Barrow was at ODU from 2004 to 2020 and received the John R. Broderick Diversity Champion Award.

“She was beloved by the many students who worked for her,” said Debbie Harmison White, former senior associate athletic director. “Jackie left a lasting imprint on the Athletic Department as the driving force for many longstanding events and programs.”

MARY BOSWELL, who worked in the psychology department for 37 years, died on March 9, 2022. She was 76. Boswell, who was at ODU from 1985 until shortly before her death, received the HACE (Hourly and Classified Employees) Staff Member of the Year Award in 2011.

“Mary was always willing to go the extra mile to help someone,” said Peggy Kinard, graduate program assistant in the department. “She had a way of making you feel special with her undivided attention to your needs.”

LESLEY “JERRY” CARR, an associate professor emeritus of sociology with a fierce passion for racial justice, died on July 1. He was 86.

Carr, who taught at ODU from 1979 until his retirement in 2002, attended demonstrations opposing the Vietnam War and apartheid in South Africa. Carr worked against school segregation and the displacement of low-income people in Norfolk, Va. He wrote the book “‘Color-Blind’ Racism.” “I wanted to be a professor who taught things that mattered, did things that mattered and changed people’s lives for the better,” Carr wrote.

JANICE DAVIS, who worked as an assistant for international programs, died on April 19, 2022. She was 79.

“She was the face of the Office of International Programs, and she was just the nicest, sweetest woman,” said Michael Dean, deputy director of the Center for Global Engagement. “She was always smiling, always kind, always patient.”

Davis was a part-time office assistant at ODU from 1996 to 1998 and worked full time until her retirement in 2003.

TAMMY DODSON, the marketing and communications manager in the Division of Digital Learning, died in September. She had worked at ODU since 2012.

“She had a really close relationship with a lot of people on campus, and she took pride in those relationships,” said Jennifer George, creative director at the division. Dodson “could get anyone to talk about anything. In marketing, that was extremely valuable.”

WILLIAM DUNSTAN, professor emeritus of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences, died on March 13, 2022. He was 87.

Dunstan taught at Old Dominion from 1980 to 2001 and served as chair for most of that time. He merged the oceanography and geology programs and helped establish the Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography. “Bill navigated us through a university where we looked a little ‘different’ than many departments,” said David Burdige, professor and Eminent Scholar of ocean and earth sciences. “He was, in my opinion, quite successful.”

MARILYN FORMAN, an adjunct music instructor since 1985, died on Sept. 19.

“Professor Forman provided piano instruction to students for 37 years, but she provided much more than that,” said Nancy K. Klein, professor and director of the Diehn School of Music. “Marilyn worked closely with each student, helping identify their strengths and weaknesses, and helping them grow in their musicianship, professionalism and their personal lives.”

ED FRAIM ’64, ODU’s first athletic fundraiser and former senior director of athletic development, died on Sept. 1.

He was 81. During his tenure, from 1977 to 2010, athletic giving rose to nearly \$2 million a year. He was inducted into the ODU Sports Hall of Fame in 2013.

Fraim’s daughter Tara Saunders ’85 ’92, executive director of the ODU Real Estate Foundation, said: “He hoped to raise money, but what was much more important to him was meeting countless new and established donors who usually became his treasured friends.” To make a donation in his honor, go to <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=1701ca>, and type “Ed Fraim Athletic Scholarship” in the Comments section.

WALTON A. HOOKS JR. (M.A. ’88, M.B.A. ’94), who served as operations manager and assistant to the chair of the physics department from 1994 to 2010, died on Dec. 3, 2021. He was 74.

Physics Chairman Charles Sukenik said Hooks “always performed at the highest level. He was a counselor to students, especially international students, who were frequently welcomed to his home for dinner. He was an adviser to chairs, who sought out his extensive institutional knowledge and keen insight.”

RAYMOND KIRBY ’55, professor emeritus of psychology, died on March 22, 2022. He was 88.

Kirby, who taught at ODU from 1968 to 1998, championed diversity, brought an emphasis on research to the department and established its first doctoral program. “In his final years, he focused on strengthening our undergraduate program,” Professor Emerita Barbara Winstead said.

He’d also take a photo of students on the first day of class. “By the next class period, he would have all of their names memorized,” Kinard said.

CARL KOCH, a professor emeritus of geological sciences who taught at ODU for 21 years, died on July 14. He was 90.

Koch, who retired in 1997, was founding editor of the Paleontological Society newsletter. “He was recognized for his pioneering papers on quantitative analysis of the fossil record,” his obituary said. “Carl was proud of work done in his earlier career, when he helped develop the first modem,” said Rich

Whittecar, University Professor emeritus of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences.

LINDA MARSHALL, a secretary with the Batten College of Engineering and Technology from 1984 to 2015, died on April 26, 2022. She was 74.

"It didn't matter who she was dealing with – faculty, staff, students, vendors," said Romina Samson, the finance director for the college. "She always had that infectious smile and that willingness to help."

STEVEN MAURER, a professor emeritus of business management, died on March 3, 2022. He was 73. Maurer taught at ODU from 1994 until his retirement in 2012.

"Steve was like a mentor to me when I joined ODU," said Shaomin Li, Eminent Scholar and chair of the management department. "He was not only an accomplished academic but also a compassionate person who was always ready and willing to help. His mischievous smiles and many jokes always cheered us up."

VICTOR PICKETT, a sculptor and emeritus professor of art who taught at ODU for more than half a century, died on March 17, 2022. He was 87. Pickett taught full time from 1964 to 2004 and continued as an adjunct faculty member until 2016. His sculpture "Free Fall" stands outside Kaufman Hall.

"He blurred the boundaries between art, design, architecture and engineering in his teaching and creative work," said Robert Wojtowicz, dean of the Graduate School and former chair of the art department.

PATTY RAPP (M.A. '92), former assistant director of the English Language Center, died on April 26, 2022. She was 79. Rapp was at the center from 1995 to 2006. "She very much enjoyed working with foreign students and seeing them succeed at the University," said her husband, Mike.

"She wore many hats, and she wore them well," said Anne Geyer (M.A. '88), the center's former director of special programs. As a teacher, "she was kind but fair. If you had a beef, you could go to her, but it better be justified."

DENNIS RAY, a lecturer in computer science from 1984 to 2006, died on May 18, 2022. He was 80.

"Dennis was a pillar of our undergraduate program," said Ravi Mukkamala, the chair of the department. "He had the utmost enthusiasm for teaching. He spent most of his time in his office helping students or trying to come up with innovative ways to teach undergrads." Mukkamala recalled Ray holding robotics contests in the hallways.

VICTOR REYES, a community engagement assistant at military locations with ODUGlobal for nearly 21 years, died on May 30, 2022. He was 51. "His job was to provide information to potential students," said Bill Nuckols, director of community outreach and engagement for ODUGlobal, formerly ODUOnline. "But he did a lot more than that," helping them navigate transition issues including benefits.

Nuckols called Reyes a "network machine. His wealth, in his mind, was how many people he could help and how he could help them."

JAMES SCHWING, a professor of computer science at ODU from 1976 to 1998, died on May 2, 2022. He was 73. Schwing was "known by all to be a person of integrity," said Stephan Olariu, a computer science professor.

Kurt Maly, Kaufman Professor and Eminent Scholar emeritus, said, "As a new chair, when I needed advice on how to engage students, I went to Jim. Any student I talked to mentioned him as the one faculty they would go to for any help they needed."

BETSY THOMAS, former business manager of the College of Health Sciences, died on June 8, 2022. She was 61. Thomas worked at ODU from 1998 to 2019.

"Betsy gave you the information you needed directly," said Lillian Thompson, an administrative assistant in the college, "and she made sure you understood it." Former Dean Shelley Mishoe said Thomas "would go the extra mile to help a faculty member trying to get their lab set up or new staff members trying to work with their departmental budgets."

BRENDA WHITEHURST, a former assistant in human resources, died on Aug. 11. She was 74.

Whitehurst worked in facilities management from 1989 to 2003, when she became administrative assistant to the vice president for human resources. She retired in 2012, but she returned as a part-time human resources assistant through 2019. "Brenda was always ready to do whatever it takes to get the work done," said Brenda Johnson, assistant director of human resources.

TOM YOUNG, who coached the men's basketball team from 1985 to 1991, died on March 19, 2022. He was 89. In his first season at ODU, the Monarchs qualified for the NCAA Tournament.

Before he came to Old Dominion, Young was the winningest coach in Rutgers University's history. He also was an assistant coach with the Washington Wizards.

OTHER NOTABLES

ARTHUR DIAMONSTEIN, who served as rector of ODU's Board of Visitors from 1994 to 1996, died on Aug. 14. He was 92. President Emeritus James V. Koch called Diamonstein, a member on the board from 1992 to 1996, "one of the best consensus builders I have ever encountered."

"Upbeat and optimistic even when the times were trying, Arthur Diamonstein was a savvy, wise individual devoted to public service," Koch said. "As our rector, he was adept politically and understood instinctively how to present issues and stimulate productive discussions."

ROBERT STANTON '61, a former rector of the Board of Visitors and the first chair of Old Dominion's Real Estate Foundation board, died on Sept. 4. He was 84.

Stanton "was a very dynamic rector," said Dick Barry, who succeeded Stanton as rector. "He loved ODU and was proud he graduated from the University."

Stanton was on the Board of Visitors from 1981 to 1989 and rector from 1984 to 1988. In 2004, he donated \$1.5 million – then the largest planned gift from an alumnus – for a professorship in real estate.

FREEWILL

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For over 90 years, Old Dominion University has built a legacy of togetherness, academic rigor, and active civic engagement. As we honor our past and advance this work in the future, we've partnered with FreeWill, a free online estate planning resource, to help you consider your own impact and legacy.

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students, parents
and friends from
around the globe
came together
to help make
Give2ODU a
success.



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**GIVE2
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Remembering Virginia Beach

Old Dominion University last summer dedicated a memorial to the 12 victims of the Virginia Beach Municipal Center shootings in 2019. It sits between the Batten Arts and Letters Building and the Perry Library and features 12 sunbeams radiating to markers identifying the victims. Six of the rays are blue, denoting ODU alumni or former students – Ryan Keith Cox, Tara Gallagher '02 (M.E. '03),

Mary Louise Gayle, Alexander Gusev '10, Richard Nettleton (M.B.A. '92) and Chris Rapp '94. Rapp's father, Michael, said: "The memorial is a perfect blend for remembrance: A quiet, peaceful place to recollect good times, bright rays of the sun to remind us that our loved ones will always blaze radiantly in our memories."

PHOTO BY SHARA WEBER





Old Dominion University has launched its **\$500 million** For Dreams and Beyond fundraising campaign. Join your fellow Monarchs and support one of the areas of critical need.

Supporting Student Success

Everything we do comes back to improving the success of our students. Even with Old Dominion University's affordable tuition, our students still face challenges financing their education.

Ensuring Academic Excellence

To provide our students with outstanding professors and extend the breadth of our research, we must attract more world-class faculty.

A Gameplan for Success

The landscape of college athletics has shifted dramatically in recent years. To gain a competitive edge, we need to offer new athletic scholarships and offer the best facilities possible.

Defining the Path Forward for Research

Our designation as an R1 research institution by The Carnegie Foundation is a clear signal that ODU ranks among the top institutions in the country. To remain an R1 institution, we must continue to invest in ODU's research capabilities.

Accelerating Advances in Health Care

Together with our partner institutions, we are seeking to improve the level of care offered to the Hampton Roads region while reducing disparities that have existed for far too long.

Special Projects

Special projects put ODU on the map and make us a destination for further development.



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