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Spring 2021

## **Monarch Science Observer, Volume 9**

College of Sciences, Old Dominion University

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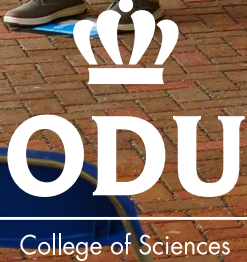
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# Monarch Science OBSERVER

Spring 2021, Volume 9



Photo of Ribbon Cutting and Building Dedication of New Chemistry Building



## Building Our Dominion

SPRING HAS SPRUNG WITH NEW BEGINNINGS FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY  
A BUILDING DEDICATION WAS HELD FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW CHEMISTRY BUILDING.

**MONARCH  
WOMEN  
ROCK IN STEM**

**SPOTLIGHT  
MONARCH ALUMNI  
AND FACULTY**

**BLUE CRAB BOWL  
VIRTUAL  
COMPETITION**



## Message from Dean Dodge

On April 21, 2021 a building dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the much anticipated, New Chemistry Building. Our celebration of the new building included a small, socially distanced group in person as well as live streaming for those attending remotely. The program included remarks by President Broderick, Vice Rector Bruce Bradley, Chemistry & Biochemistry Chair John Cooper, and Joedian Morris, a Ph.D. candidate in Chemistry.



The New Chemistry Building is an outstanding realization of the positive synergy between teaching and research. Faculty will be working in state-of-the-art research laboratories across the hall from students learning in excellent teaching labs. Students will see faculty at work on their research and hopefully will become interested in joining those groups. Many glass panes in the building give visibility to research and teaching labs from the hallways. John Cooper calls it “STEM on Display.” The entire building has been designed with student and faculty success in mind.

We are planning an open house in the new Chemistry building in October. Please stay tuned for more information.

In this newsletter we include highlights from the building dedication and profiles of Monarch alumni and faculty who we featured on social media during Women’s History Month and in April to celebrate Chemistry. Read about how high school students from across the Commonwealth competed virtually in the Blue Crab Bowl competition. We also mourn the passing of Physics Emeritus Professor Forrest P. “Pat” Clay, Jr.

Registration is open for ODU’s summer STEM-H program, the Remote Experience for Young Engineers and Scientists (REYES). It is free and open to the general public so make sure you tell a friend. For more information check out the web page [here](#).

Thank you all for your support of the College of Sciences!

Gail Dodge

## New Chemistry Building Open

On Tuesday April 21, 2021 at 11 a.m., the University held a building dedication for the \$75.6 million, 110,000-square foot Chemistry Building. This four-story academic facility will allow ODU to expand its chemistry and biochemistry programs and carry out more advanced research. The building also features the Michael and Kimthanh Lê Digital Theater & Planetarium, a 122-seat facility that will double as an advanced chemistry and biochemistry classroom. There were 50 people on-site for the building dedication and many more watched via [this live stream](#). Later the same week the Hugo A. Owens House was dedicated and the groundbreaking of the New Health Sciences Building took place.

[Click here to visit the New Chemistry website.](#)



Photo L-R John Cooper, Chemistry & Biochemistry Chair, Provost Austin Agho, President John R. Broderick, Joedian Morris, Chemistry Ph.D. Candidate, and Dean Gail Dodge

[Click each link below to watch exclusive videos of the New Chemistry Building](#)

[New Chemistry Building First Floor Revealed](#)

[Explore Second Floor of New Chemistry Building](#)

[Discover Third & Fourth Floors of New Chemistry Building](#)

“Our faculty will be engaged in fundamental and applied research, seeking to discover new science and to apply that knowledge to the challenges our society is facing. The students will have access to advanced instrumentation and the opportunity to work with faculty on research. No matter what path a student follows, the experience of doing undergraduate research is transformational.”  
Dean Gail Dodge

“At ODU every year we teach over 5,000 students chemistry and biochemistry. These students are our future scientists, engineers, doctors, dentists, pharmacists and all of our nurses and health technicians. They come to ODU for experiential learning and this building is designed to give students an unparalleled STEM-H education.”  
John Cooper, Professor & Chair  
Chemistry & Biochemistry

“The magnificent design of this New Chemistry Building will greatly impact the education of our students. The new facility will allow for an increase in the number of spaces for active learning with an expansion of research opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate students.”  
Joedian Morris, Ph.D.  
Candidate in Chemistry



# Monarch Women Rock in STEM



ODU alumna Donna Brehm graduated in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, but her love for science and a Navy man changed the trajectory of her life. From being Virginia Beach's first female deputy fire chief to owning her own business, Brehm has aimed to inspire her community. Read full article [here](#).

Photo: (L) Donna Brehm, Alumna Biology & Former Deputy Fire Chief

Kristina Urribarres is a beauty, fashion and fitness influencer with nearly half a million followers on YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok. She credits her Bachelor of Sciences degree in Psychology from ODU as a key to her success. Back in 2009 Urribarres started posting videos for fun before YouTubers were getting paid. Read the full article [here](#).

Photo: (R) Kristina Urribarres, Alumna & Social Media Influencer



A 550-million-year-old fossil has been named after Nora Noffke, an ODU, Ocean & Earth Sciences (OES) associate professor. The newly discovered fossil is Noffkarkys ("net of Noffke") and was found in the Grant Bluff Formation of Central Mount Stuart, Northern Territory, Australia. Read full article [here](#).

Photo (L) Nora Noffke, OES Associate Professor



# Monarch Women Rock in STEM

ODU alumna, Imani Black has always been drawn to the water and what lies beneath. She works as an oyster farmer and she started [Minorities in Aquaculture](#) located on the Eastern Shore. Her love for STEM as an African American woman proved challenging, but because of her family legacy and her self-determination she is setting sail on an environmental career. Read the full article [here](#).

Photo: (R) Imani Black, Marine Biology Alumna



Luminita Todor, Esq. uses her Experimental Nuclear Physics Ph.D. from Old Dominion University uniquely as a patent attorney for [Patent Portfolio Builders PLLC](#). "If women refuse to stop in front of the illusory barriers of prejudice and instead value independence and achieving their earning potential, they should develop their math and science knowledge to claim successfully the well-paid STEM jobs," says Todor. Read the full article [here](#).

Photo: (L) Luminita Todor, Physics Alumna & Patent Lawyer

Starting in April or May, the buzzing of millions of cicada bugs will fill the air in Northern Virginia, Maryland, Washington, Delaware, Michigan, North Carolina and a slew of other states. But this 17-year crop, the group everyone's talking about — called Brood X or Brood Ten — will spare Hampton Roads. Read the full article [here](#).

Photo (R) Deborah Waller, Biological Sciences Associate Professor



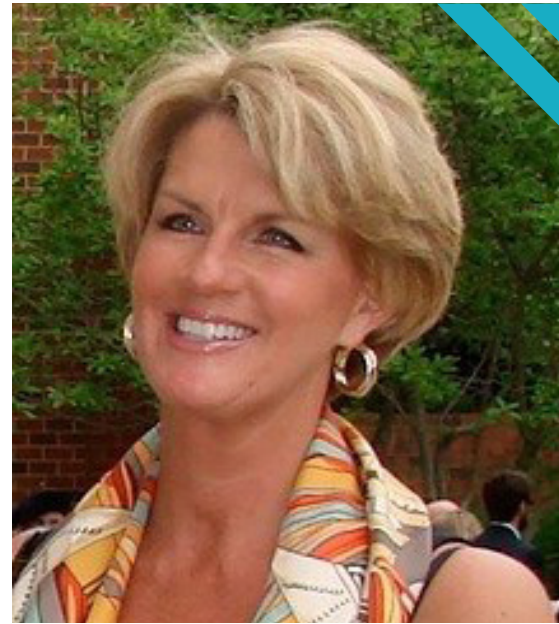


## Spotlight Chemistry Alumni & Faculty

Alumna Sarah Hall is the founder and CEO of two chemical companies in Virginia Beach. Her journey in science began at ODU as a young married woman.

“When I got my first “C” grade ever, in my life, on my first Chemistry 101 test, I created and accepted my own personal challenge to major in Chemistry.” “I have never regretted it.” Hall graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry.

After graduation, Hall worked at a local chemical company. It was then that the power of an idea would begin to formulate into a new career choice. Read full article [here](#).



Don Ogelsby, an ODU alumnus and retired professor of Chemistry, has all of the elements of trailblazer etched in his DNA. His career spans six decades in science from higher education to NASA inventor. “I grew up in Virginia Beach and graduated from Oceana High School in 1954, which was the last class before the school closed,” said Ogelsby. He went to ODU and was heavily influenced by professors to pursue chemistry. Read the full article [here](#).



Internationally recognized scientist Professor Patrick Hatcher has taught chemistry classes at ODU since 2005. As the Frank Batten Endowed Chair in Physical Sciences, he leads an intensive research effort in environmental chemistry. His love for chemistry developed at an early age and his quest to support emerging science students is at the core of his teaching and research. Read the full article [here](#).

## Summer Program Open to the Public

### REMOTE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS

Summer 2021



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### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SUMMER PROGRAM:

## JUNE 28 - JULY 23, 2021!

Join more than 7,000 high-achieving, motivated and ambitious learners from all over the world for Remote Experience for Young Engineers and Scientists (REYES). The goal of this program is to increase STEM-H literacy, inspire and train the next generation of scientists.

This unique virtual learning experience offers more than 70 classes, guest lectures, activities and opportunities for social engagement.

Some of the topics covered will include astronomy, artificial intelligence, entomology, engineering, science related to the coronavirus, psychology and Python coding.

Register today at [www.odu.edu/reves](http://www.odu.edu/reves)



# VA High School Students Compete in Blue Crab Bowl Virtually

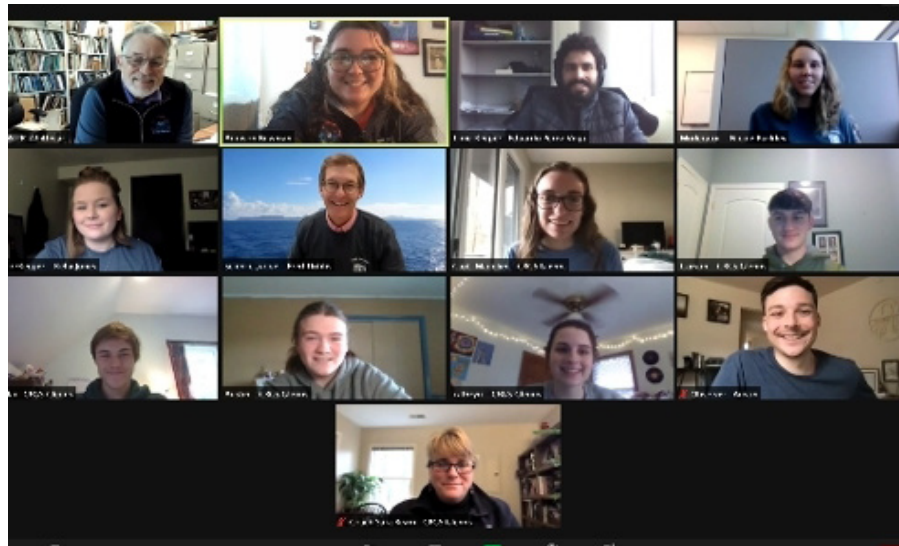


Photo (L):  
Winning team from  
Chesapeake Bay Governor's  
School for Marine and  
Environmental Science  
Glenns Campus

The Blue Crab Bowl, a 24-year tradition of high school students going head-to-head in a rapid buzzer, rapid fire competition, could not be stopped, even during a global pandemic. Since students could not compete in-person, the event was held virtually by the Department of Ocean and Earth Sciences in partnership with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on February 26 and 27. Even though teams could not compete in-person, the Blue Crab Bowl maintained a dynamic presence on social media including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with timely screenshots of the competition taking place in Zoom rooms. Read the full article [here](#).

## Remembering Former CoS Faculty



Physicist Forrest P. "Pat" Clay Jr. was an expert on electrical circuits. But he made connections far beyond ODU. Clay, professor emeritus who taught at ODU from 1961 to 1993, died on April 15. He was 93.

His activities and interests covered a wide span. Clay held leadership positions in organizations as diverse as the Norfolk Republican City Committee, the Ghent Neighborhood League and the Tidewater Ballet Association, and he played a major role in establishing Hampton Roads' first full-time classical musical station.

"His career spanned the major developments in the history of the department," said James L. Cox Jr., a professor emeritus and former chair. "I think Pat might have been the last surviving faculty member who participated in the creation of the physics major and the Ph.D. program." Read the full article [here](#).

Photo (above): Forrest P. "Pat" Clay, Jr.,  
Professor Emeritus

# Monarch Science Observer ODU College of Sciences Newsletter

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