

Old Dominion University

ODU Digital Commons

State of the University Addresses

University Administration

8-22-2018

State of the University Address, 2018

John R. Broderick

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/administration_stateoftheuniversity



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)



President John R. Broderick Wednesday, August 22, 2018

I am proud of the advances and the milestones Old Dominion University has achieved since I became president. But this speech is never about me. It's about you.

As Helen Keller rightly observed, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

President Obama often reminded us that "our destiny is not written for us; it's written by us."

Old Dominion people have done just that!

You have amassed a remarkable record of achievement thanks to the spirit, ingenuity and creativity of faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni and supporters across the commonwealth and beyond.

You have heard a few examples of the leaps we've taken. What I hope to do in the next 20 minutes or so is highlight some of our most significant accomplishments of the past year and preview important developments unfolding over the next few months and beyond.

Old Dominion turns 88 this year. But as C.S. Lewis said, "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

You demonstrate that daily by building on our strengths, while seeking new ones. I believe, right now, someone in this room is on the cusp of an inspired academic pursuit or discovery, previously unimagined by humankind.

One person who continues to inspire me is my wife, First Lady Kate Broderick, who is a lifelong advocate for students and co-founder of the Women's Initiative Network. The WIN mentor group last fall created the Bridge the Gap campaign to help students overcome unexpected financial hurdles. This initiative has already raised nearly \$1 million, a remarkable number in such a short time.

So to Kate and all the WIN members, ODU students say, thank you.



This morning I also get the pleasure of welcoming new board members Robert Corn and Unwana Dabney, as well as the board's new leadership team of Rector Lisa Smith, Vice Rector Kay Kemper and Secretary Pam Kirk. And I and the University community also owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to former Rector Carlton Bennett.

Several weeks back, Old Dominion held a symposium, organized by Vice President Neufeldt and the Division of Student Engagement and Enrollment Services, on the subject of social mobility. The gathering attracted 50 national higher education leaders who brainstormed tangible strategies to enable more first-generation and low-income students to earn degrees and advance their socioeconomic status.

Old Dominion has established itself as a thought leader and is developing a Social Mobility Center as a clearinghouse of the best practices for universities nationwide. Actually, there is now a measure called the Social Mobility Index, ranking universities that are advancing student socioeconomic status, and Old Dominion is in the top 15 percent of over 1,300 schools ranked.

I mention this because it showcases our values, our ambitions and, most importantly, our true impact in changing lives.

At Old Dominion, we are committed to serving all promising students - valedictorians, veterans, first-generation and international students, those on every rung of the income ladder - offering them a challenging, affordable education, whether it's on-campus or online. We promise a diverse and welcoming community for learning, where we all benefit from the collegial exchanges of thoughts and perspectives.

In my opinion, Old Dominion accurately reflects the world students must ultimately navigate, not only to compete, but also to partner career-wise. And I'm proud of that!

No question, we are taking a leadership role in that regard, much as we have established ourselves in the forefront in areas ranging from creative writing and bioelectrics to the Teacher-In-Residence program, where our Darden College faculty prepare mathematics, science and special education teachers in conjunction with Norfolk Public Schools.

This weekend, we welcome the largest freshman class in Old Dominion's history - numbering more than 3,100. With additions in graduate, transfer and online students, our total enrollment will again exceed 24,000 students. Remember 10 years ago during our strategic planning process, we all agreed we wanted to be a better institution, not a bigger one.

Retention and graduation, among many measures, say we have done that. Five thousand Monarchs walked across the stage in this very building last year, if you need further evidence of that.

Next week some of our health sciences students will experience the superb renovations at the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center. We have expanded our top-notch nursing program, opened a telehealth education and research center, and equipped a cutting-edge patient simulation lab there. Potential next steps for us in Virginia Beach include a School of Public Health, primary care clinic and substance abuse prevention center. I appreciate the efforts of Provost Agho, Nursing

Chair Karen Karlowicz, plus Renee Olander, Vice President Dubois and his dedicated team for the amazing conversion of this facility.

But we also will start planning early next year for a \$75 million health sciences building on Hampton Boulevard.

This semester, we will unveil a master's program in cybersecurity, coming shortly after we graduated our first cohort of bachelor's recipients in May. This degree further enhances our position as one of Virginia's leaders in a field with thousands of unfilled high-paying jobs.

On November 14, the Barry Art Museum will have its formal opening. Thanks to the generosity of Dick and Carolyn Barry, the museum will feature more than 250 paintings, antique dolls, a large glass collection and an array of rare automata. A 600-pound Dale Chihuly chandelier in the lobby will welcome art lovers from all over, yet - believe me - the museum will provide numerous learning opportunities for all students and visitors.

November will also be the month we say goodbye to what we know as S.B. Ballard Stadium-Foreman Field and look forward to a new and more modern facility scheduled to be ready by next Labor Day's home opener. This work - about 20 feet from my window most of the summer - reminds us that construction on a college campus, albeit at times noisy and dusty, signals progress. I say this as much for me as I do for you.

Construction for the Hugo Owens Residence Hall and the Laboratory Sciences Building should also begin by the end of January, which means we will have close to \$200 million worth of construction projects going on.

At the 2017 address, I discussed my desire to accelerate our activity in economic development and commercialization. We have taken a step with the creation of the Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, led by Chip Filer. The institute brings under one umbrella several entities, including the Strome Entrepreneurial Center, directed by Nancy Grden; our Center for Enterprise Innovation, led by Marty Kaszubowski, and our Innovation Centers in Norfolk and Chesapeake. It is a single point of contact for our students, faculty and staff and demonstrates our leadership in the region's economic development.

Among the new byproducts is increased synergy to help faculty evaluate research and its commercial potential. At the same time, we continue to maximize the benefits of entrepreneurship on campus, expanding our curriculum, start-up support and programming, with our Entsminger Fellows leading the way.

In early 2019, we will launch another innovative partnership with Newport News Shipbuilding, who, with Huntington Ingalls, employs nearly 1,300 of our graduates. The two of us will work together in the new Brooks Crossing complex in Newport News.

This space enables us to reach the community in several ways. It is especially aimed at the younger generation, where an experimental lab geared to K-to-12 projects will nicely align with digital shipbuilding and STEM.

While I am talking about the Peninsula, let me express the University's full support of Jefferson Laboratory's bid for a \$1 billion electron ion collider, which can look inside protons and neutrons. This next-generation investment would benefit our faculty and students, bring hundreds of scientists to Hampton Roads, and open the door to technologies even smaller than nano-scale.

In related successes:

Old Dominion was a big winner in GO VIRGINIA, an initiative aimed at spurring economic development through local partnerships. ODU led two projects that received nearly \$3 million. They are the Hampton Roads Cyber Collaboration Lab and the Virginia Digital Shipbuilding Workforce Program. Jennifer Michaeli, Eric Weisel, Brian Payne and Mike Robinson deserve most of the credit for these successes.

Another fruitful area of collaboration is with the Port of Virginia, and it provides our students access to software broadening maritime prospects for internships and jobs. Our ODU-Port relationship is flourishing in a number of other areas - as it should - pairing us with one of Virginia's most valuable assets.

As for my \$250 million fundraising announcement of a year ago, we have made great strides, with more than \$115 million already raised or pledged.

Vice President Brandon and I want to thank all the donors for helping us increase support for students, faculty and athletics. Special thanks go to the Landmark Foundation, Doug and Pat Perry, the Dragas family, Marsha Hudgins, the estate of John and Katherine Nowell and Conrad Hall, all of whom have made significant gifts recently.

But keep in mind, we need your personal support and insight on potential donors, as well. These new funds surely open doors of opportunity for the entire campus.

Of similar importance, we reaffirmed our commitment to affordability by reducing tuition for active-duty military undergraduates by more than 28 percent. It was simply the right thing to do for those who protect and keep us safe. In fact, for all students, our costs remain the most affordable among Virginia's public doctoral institutions.

Another step to reduce costs involves pursuing expanded partnerships with community colleges. We have signed 200 articulation agreements, more than any other institution in Virginia. Tidewater, Thomas Nelson and Northern Virginia are among those always willing to discuss what's next on that front.

While our focus remains on-campus education, we now offer more online classes and programs than any four-year public university in Virginia. A number of these programs - both graduate and undergraduate - are nationally ranked, and the Online Virginia Network, a partnership with George Mason, nearly doubled the enrollment target for its very first year.

On the research side of the house, we reached a record \$51 million in expenditures, and a recent development could take that number higher.

VP Foster helped the University gain membership in the Department of Defense's Systems Engineering Research Center, an exclusive network of universities that receive priority for some DoD work. Old Dominion's participation in SERC will be led by VMASC, which incidentally just celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Meanwhile, one of the most prestigious fellowships for faculty across the country is the Fulbright, and we've had four recent recipients. Rodger Harvey, in ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences, recently was in Norway. Sharon Raver-Lampman, in communication disorders and special education, and Greg Raver-Lampman, from the English Language Center, spent the spring in Armenia. And if you followed the news, it was a very interesting spring in Armenia. And Deborah Gray of nursing is now in Botswana working on health care expansion.

It would take me all day to review the remarkable accomplishments of our faculty and staff over the past year, so I will simply present a small sample:

Vanessa Panfil and Jennifer Fish from Arts and Letters both published highly acclaimed books.

The Batten College of Engineering and Technology received grants totaling \$2 million from the National Science Foundation to assist students, while Dean Adams recently received the Harriet Tubman Award from the American Society for Engineering Education.

In Sciences, physicist Raúl Briceño received a grant in the competitive Early Career Research Program run by the Department of Energy. Alvin Holder, in chemistry, and Desh Ranjan, in computer science, helped Old Dominion secure a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to encourage underrepresented and minority students to pursue careers in STEM.

In Education, Helen Crompton was Old Dominion's 32nd recipient of the state's Outstanding Faculty Award.

Wayne Talley, from the Strome College of Business, received the prestigious Onassis Prize in Shipping, recognizing his lifelong work.

In Health Sciences, Lisa Koperna, director of the Monarch Physical Therapy Clinic, won an Entrepreneurial Excellence Award.

Finally, our students, graduate and undergraduate, have also distinguished themselves.

Mariana Khachatryan was awarded one of eight national fellowships to conduct research at Jefferson Laboratory.

Another 20 students completed designing a cube-sat, a miniature satellite, which NASA will launch from the International Space Station.

The ODU Symphony Orchestra played a side-by-side concert with the Virginia Symphony before a sellout crowd at the Sandler Center.

No less important, students contribute hundreds of thousands of hours in community service, with projects ranging from preparing free tax returns to dental care to tutoring and mentoring throughout

the region. In addition, our social entrepreneurship organization, Enactus, won another national competition.

Our youngest learners - infants through 2-year-olds - are also pleased with the opening on 47th and Killam of the Children's Learning & Research Center. I know this first-hand because I stopped by the other day at naptime, and morale was incredibly high.

In athletics, believe it or not, we start our 10th year of football. Coach Wilder and his newly elected Captains, Isaiah Harper and Oshane Ximines, are here, and in case they forgot: I think practice starts at 9 o'clock, so you folks may be wanting to look at your watches.

Several of our teams - men's tennis and soccer, plus women's golf - competed in NCAA tournaments. But here is what really matters to me, and I know it does to you:

For the second consecutive year, ODU placed more student-athletes on the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll than any other institution. And one of them, tennis player Sam Perelman, serves as a member of the prestigious NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. So congratulations to Wood Selig, Ragean Hill and their colleagues for a job well-done!

Lastly, let's not forget a pair of former Monarchs who helped their teams win championships: Justin Verlander, with the Houston Astros, and Rick Lovato, with the Philadelphia Eagles.

As I close, let me assure you we want to extend our worldwide reputation for tackling sea level rise. Our work, to date, has evolved into multidisciplinary research across all six colleges, including new studies by a team of faculty analyzing home values and building code recommendations.

Just as Old Dominion has become a leader in resilience, we are raising the bar in providing students practical experiences to boost their careers.

Our new LeADERS program, overseen by Lisa Mayes in our Center for High Impact Practices, helps students gain active learning experience in and outside the classroom. It further empowers them to assemble an important e-portfolio documenting their successes for employers.

The bright spot here: Our alumni survey shows more than 92 percent of our graduates have jobs or are in graduate school within six months after commencement. Bev Forbes and the Career Development Services team also deserve our thanks for this.

I conclude with resiliency and LeADERS because - in many respects - both represent our breadth and our hopes. Hopes, however, that are built with a foundation of caring and dedicated faculty, staff and volunteers. What greatness Old Dominion achieves, results from all of you.

So as we move forward, let's fondly remember the contributions of those we lost this year - colleagues like Steve Yetiv, Jane Hager, Jim English, Marc Jacobson, Anne Shumadine and Anne Donovan. Yet, going forward, we benefit from the wisdom of colleagues like Nina Brown, Bob Ash and Ruby Milteer. All three continue to energize students and all of us more than 50 years after they started here. That's remarkable.

While I know that our future shines bright, we soon must begin discussions for writing the next chapter. The strategic planning process for 2020-2025 will be outlined later in the fall. No question,

our collective voice must further advance ODU's trajectory as a leading national metropolitan University, working even harder to enhance academic and research excellence, supporting student success, increasing partnerships and finding new resources, including ones for faculty and staff compensation.

You will learn more about an exciting development about compensation from Vice President Sanderlin later this fall.

We have made great progress in graduate education with the establishment of the Graduate School. And thanks to the efforts of Robert Wojtowicz and Jane Dané, we are advancing campus-wide internationalization initiatives. But I do believe additional investments in graduate students and graduate programs as well as enhanced international opportunities are critical to our future.

To conclude, the Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, "Big results require big ambitions."

I call on each of you to harness your ambitions and aim higher in the weeks ahead - try one more experiment, connect with one more student, dream one new dream, whether it is in your classroom, your office, your lab or yes - even in Hampton Roads traffic.

Have a terrific rest of the day! And thank you all for coming and supporting Old Dominion.

Converted from the ODU Website (August 16, 2020)

<https://www.odu.edu/stateoftheuniversity/2018>