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OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | SPRING 2021

Monarch

A photograph of a man and a woman from behind, embracing on a pier. They are looking out at a body of water under a vibrant sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow and a shimmering reflection on the water. The man is wearing a dark, patterned suit jacket, and the woman is wearing a light blue blazer. A wooden pier structure is visible on the right side of the frame.

*The Brodericks:
A Portrait of Success*





PHOTO BY SHARA WEBER

Full Frame

That's one giant octopus, and you can see it up close at Reaver Beach Brewing Co. on Colley Avenue, less than a mile from campus. The mural, on the wall across from the bar, was painted by Grafton artist **Peter Geiger** (M.F.A. '07). The octopus is supposed to call to mind the brewery's Hoptopus IPAs. Geiger said he tried to give it a fierce look, in keeping with Reaver Beach's pirate theme. Josh Bennett '14, the general manager of the brewery, said: "I think it's a perfect depiction of the spookiness and adventure that is the Hoptopus. Everybody I talk to says it just looks amazing, and they really appreciate his attention to detail."



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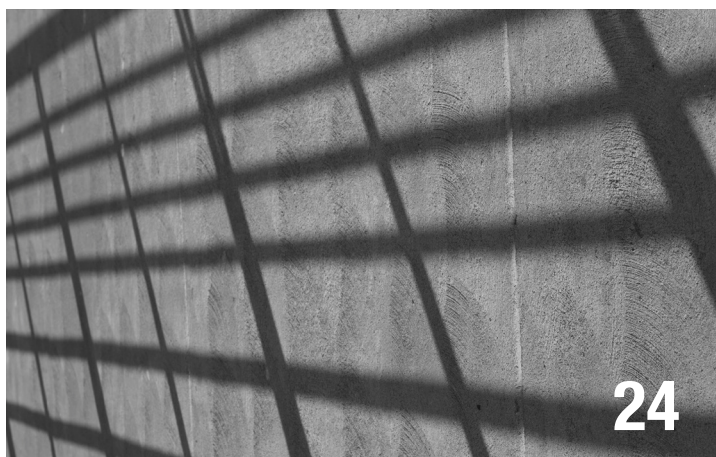
Taylor Heinicke was studying for math finals when he got the call from Washington. He got an A-plus in the NFL.

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President John and First Lady Kate Broderick enjoying an Elizabeth River sunset behind the Jacobson President's House. Photo by Shara Weber.



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Monarch

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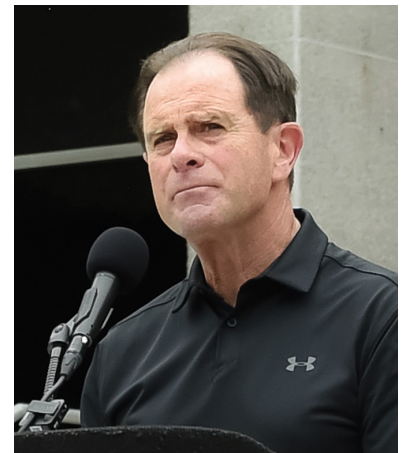
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Monarchs Forever

This issue features plenty of words on Kate and me, so I would like to focus my column on the others who appear in these pages and who exemplify the Monarch way.

Let's begin with **Serkan Golge** (Ph.D. '10), one of our true heroes, who unfortunately was the subject of international headlines and diplomacy. Golge, a NASA scientist, was jailed in Turkey in 2016 and falsely accused of assisting a failed coup against the president. This issue carries one of the most detailed accounts of his three years in solitary imprisonment, confined in a 15-by-10-foot cell for all but one hour a day. His persistent hope along with his gratitude for family and freedom should inspire us all.

Sharon McGlone '75 personifies another form of endurance and courage. Before she came to ODU, she was among seven girls who integrated the public schools in Spotsylvania County. She pushed beyond ostracism and slurs, and later forged a successful career in education, retiring in 2019 as a teacher and technology specialist in Norfolk.



You'll meet professors such as **Luisa A. Igloria**, who is serving as Virginia's poet laureate; **Jennifer Fish** and **Ling Li**, who recently received the state's highest faculty award, and a group in nursing who won international attention for their fresh gaming approach to test students' skills in administering meds. The issue also features a remembrance of one of our most influential professors, oceanographer **Larry Atkinson**.

Finally, the magazine profiles two students remarkable in different ways. One is **Scarlet Aguilar-Martinez**, whose passion for science led her to ODU after a long detour, including a few months of homelessness.

The other is our most talked-about professional athlete: quarterback **Taylor Heinicke**. Out of pro football for nearly a year and a half, he was called up by Washington in December, performed admirably in two games and signed a multimillion-dollar contract with Washington in February. Taylor got the call while preparing for finals for math classes he was taking. What I like most about his story is the fact that, true to his word, he came back after the season to finish his exams.

These people illustrate Old Dominion's spirit, which has enriched my and Kate's lives these past 13 years. We leave the President's House this summer thankful for our time with you and ready to continue championing Monarchs and all they do, from science labs to athletic fields.

John R. Broderick, President
Old Dominion University



In this issue, we commemorate the legacy of President John and First Lady Kate Broderick, whose successful 13-year tenure ends this summer.

I've known John R. Broderick since he came to ODU as public information director in 1993, when I was covering higher education for *The Virginian-Pilot*. I found him direct and thorough, with a wry sense of humor – and a willingness to let bygones be bygones if we didn't see eye to eye.

I joined Old Dominion in 2016, and since then I've worked closely with him on writing projects large and small. I've admired the strength of his convictions –

he once deleted a politically convenient sentence because it didn't match his beliefs – as well as his insistence on crisp, concise language, uncluttered by adjectives or adverbs. When he goes off-script, it's always to add a personal touch that rings true. And I've benefited more than a few times from *his* editing.

But his strengths extend far beyond correct usage and syntax. Our section looking back at the past 13 years showcases the Brodericks' wide-ranging impact – from the face of the student body to the contours of the campus. The numbers don't fail to impress – more than two dozen buildings, over \$1.1 billion in new resources. But the heart of it goes back to his and Kate's personal touch. "They make sure every individual is important," said former vice president Ellen J. Neufeldt, now president of California State University San Marcos. "They live this mission with every interaction they have."

Those relationships don't end after graduation. Former defensive end Eddie McClam '12 recalled being down and uncertain about his future after getting cut by the Philadelphia Eagles. He texted the president at 9:30 one night, seeking his advice. "He texted me right back: 'If you're free in 10 minutes, let's chat,'" McClam recalled.

I wish President Broderick well in his new role as Board of Visitors Distinguished Lecturer, and I join other Monarchs in offering an early welcome to our next president, Dr. Brian O. Hemphill, and ODU's next first lady, Dr. Marisela Rosas Hemphill. In these pages, you will hear his initial goals for Old Dominion; our fall issue will provide a deeper introduction. By the way, though it's not a prerequisite for a successful tenure, I'm happy to note that our next president, like his predecessor, received a degree in journalism.

I wish you a safe and happy summer.

Philip Walzer
Monarch Magazine and University Editor

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In the last issue, we asked you to identify these masked Monarchs. And now their true identities: Norfolk Mayor Kenny Alexander '90 (top) and Jonathan Leib, who was recently named interim dean of the College of Arts and Letters, succeeding Kent Sandstrom.



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PHOTO BY ANGELA DOUGLAS

Hemphill named next president of Old Dominion

Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., president of Radford University and former president of West Virginia State University, was unanimously chosen as the next president of Old Dominion University. He will succeed John R. Broderick this summer. “I am very much excited to be named the ninth president of Old Dominion,” Hemphill said in February during a streamed video, seen by more than 1,050 people, which introduced him to the community.

He said he would seek to “propel this institution to national prominence, but you’re going to be very much a part of the journey.” Hemphill said he would meet with every academic department and service unit over his first 18 months.

“I need to see and understand the institution through your lens,” he said. “It’s not about one individual, but it is about the collective and how we all can come together to provide transformative opportunities to ensure student success.”

In an interview, he said he would look to boost graduation and retention rates and expand research. “At ODU, we are already conducting bold and innovative research.

How can we invest in this critical area and grow it in the years to come?”

Diversity, equity and inclusion, Hemphill said, “will continue to be a focal point of the important work that we do on this campus.” He said he would also continue ODU’s emphasis on online education and partnerships with the business community while planning for “degrees of the future.”

In the video, he encouraged faculty and staff members to take “calculated risks with the possibility of failure but the greater likelihood of success.”

Hemphill also praised his predecessor. Broderick, Hemphill said, “has left a significant legacy for this institution, and I am honored to step forward and build on John’s great work.”

He will be joined by Marisela Rosas Hemphill, Ph.D., the first lady of Radford, and their 8-year-old twins, Catalina and Cruz. She is a former college administrator who has a doctorate in student affairs administration and research from the University of Iowa. “We received an amazing welcome from the ODU family,”

she said, “and we’re so excited to join the Monarch nation.”

Hemphill has been president of Radford since 2016 and led West Virginia State for four years. Before that, he held several leadership positions, including vice president for student affairs and enrollment management at Northern Illinois University for eight years. He received his doctorate in higher education administration and policy studies from the University of Iowa.

Bruce Bradley ’78, the chair of the search committee and vice rector of the Board of Visitors, said Hemphill “wowed us.”

Bradley shared some of the comments about Hemphill from members of the board and search committee. They included: “An experienced, inspirational president committed to students.” “An excellent fundraiser with confident authenticity.” “No one did more homework during the interview process than Brian did.”

Read more about Brian O. Hemphill at www.odu.edu/reignonward and in the fall issue of Monarch magazine.

The Broderick Years

This summer, John R. Broderick will retire as president of Old Dominion University. His 13-year tenure is twice as long as the average college presidency. He spent the previous 15 years in other positions at Old Dominion, including chief of staff and vice president of institutional advancement and admissions.

This 13-page section celebrates his and First Lady Kate Broderick's profound legacy, from reshaping the campus physical plan to accelerating research to expanding diversity. It begins with his own reflections, including his challenges as a first-generation college student, his personal touch at Old Dominion and his post-presidential plans.

BY PHILIP WALZER



Q

You started your career as a journalist. What headline would you give to an article summing up your presidency?

A

I was always taught to let somebody else describe the moment. After I announced my retirement, The Virginian-Pilot wrote that my departure will be “A substantial loss for ODU.”

Q

You were a first-generation college student. What hurdles did you face, and how did you overcome them? How did your experience influence your focus on social mobility, diversity and inclusion here?

A

My father was an electrician, so when there was construction in Connecticut, he did well. When there was a stoppage, he didn't. As a result, several times in college, my financial aid forms were totally inaccurate. I had a kindly education professor by the name of Larry Durham at Northeastern. I confided in him that I was going to drop out. He knew the financial aid director and walked me over there to tell my story. His intervention saved me. I ended

up getting a scholarship and loans, plus a campus job. I vowed then I would do the same for others. I feel comfortable that our initiatives in student success have achieved that moment for many, many students.

Q

What was your most satisfying achievement at Old Dominion, and the goal you're most disappointed in not having reached?

A

Probably shaking hands with thousands and thousands of students at commencement, including three sons, two nephews and a niece. For so many of our students, graduation is a remarkable journey, completed sometimes against great odds. To see smiles and tears at those moments reminded me of the important work we do at ODU because we do change lives for the better. I don't have major disappointments, though we all know upon reflection we could have done some things better. I always wished we had the resources to help every deserving student get across the finish line sooner.

Q

How have you changed as a leader and as a person since you became president?

A

Not much. For the most part, I hope people would say, "He treated me like I wanted to be treated." Everyone on this campus is critical to what we do. I try extremely hard to know the names of as many people as possible, as well as something about them. Nobody will know all 3,200 names, but I bet I know more than half.

Q

What insights have you gained as to the role of athletics and the lives of student-athletes?

A

I have tremendous respect for them because they must possess incredible time management skills, while excelling in competition, the classroom and in the community. I served on several NCAA national committees over the years, and I always was pleased to share what our young men and women were doing with their opportunities at ODU.

Q

How have you balanced University obligations and family life in the past 13 years?

A

Don't get me wrong. Kate and I compromised anniversaries, birthdays and sometimes vacations. But we never lost sight of the importance of our family and friends. We rarely missed a day of exercising together, whether it was running, walking or bike riding, which always helped clear our minds. Having grandkids, including a 1-year-old, never allows you to forget what happiness should be based on. We also have some wonderful longtime friends.

Q

Being a university president is a relentless job. How did you cope with the constant headaches and personality issues?

A

For the most part, I have been surrounded by outstanding people both as employees and as human beings. There is no question that headaches are a part of the job; however, the irritants are easily outweighed by the moments where I have learned, discovered, laughed and enjoyed time with both ODU and community people.

Q

What's been your biggest disappointment during the pandemic?

A

The inability to interact with faculty, staff and students, especially with this being my last year. I have met so many people over the years simply by attending campus functions and events or walking into buildings to say hello to folks.

Q

What will you miss most and least about living in the President's House?

A

The view of the Elizabeth River, especially the sunsets. What I won't miss I will save for a future interview.

Q

What will your role be at Old Dominion after you retire as president?

A

I will serve as the Board of Visitors Distinguished Lecturer for several years in the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies. I also plan on contributing to future State of the Commonwealth and State of the Region reports. There could also be a closeout project or two I may be asked to work on by the Board of Visitors.

Q

What are some fun things you and Kate plan to do that you didn't previously have time for? Any new hobbies?

A

We have always enjoyed biking and walking, so now we will get two chances a day, instead of one. We also plan to take up yoga. We like hiking and look forward to returning to areas from Maine to California, where we enjoyed the exercise and the views in the past. We also hope after COVID to visit friends in Spain, Ireland, France and Italy.


Q

What's your top piece of advice to Dr. Hemphill for a successful presidency at Old Dominion?

A

I have no advice. He is a professional, and the board is deeply committed to his success. Should he ever ask for my assistance, I will be pleased to help. I will add that (former President) Jim Koch was a terrific resource for me over the last 13 years!





John R.
Broderick's
presidency,
like the house
he lives in, rests
on six pillars:

His vision stressed

Partnerships

President John R. Broderick has pushed collaboration with a positive effect for the region and commonwealth. The most recent example: the effort, aided by Sentara Healthcare and the state, to launch a School of Public Health with Norfolk State University and Eastern Virginia Medical School. Others include:

- Online Virginia Network, with George Mason.
- Economic development and digital shipbuilding partnerships with the cities of Norfolk and Newport News.

"It broadens our research, it expands our capacity for teaching, and I believe it's the correct and appropriate approach to be responsible stewards of our resources," he said. "Our partnerships with the community college system, before it was the trendy thing to do, showed me early on what was available when you could work with other schools."

Brian Payne, vice provost for academic affairs, also praised partnerships forged *within* the university, such as coastal resilience and cybersecurity, which bring together science and liberal arts. "He's breaking down disciplinary silos and getting people working together."

Research

"My philosophy from Day One was less about trying to get on a top 100 list and more about focusing on what we could do to capitalize on the strengths of this region. Old Dominion has a built-in home court advantage, with the port and the military right in our backyard. Why not capitalize on that?"

ODU has emerged as a leader in such disciplines as sea level rise, telehealth and cybersecurity. Community activist Dubby Wynne describes the new Hampton Roads Maritime Collaborative for Growth & Innovation as "a significant effort that Old Dominion is right in the middle of to take maritime and innovation to a whole other level in this region." The initiative, which spans offshore wind energy, port activity, resilience and the Navy, "will give ODU a major point of differentiation," Wynne said.

Community resources such as Monarch Physical Therapy and the dental hygiene clinic, Broderick said, also offer students research opportunities.

Student success

Broderick early on created the Division of Student Engagement and Enrollment Services and opened the Student Success Center. "I wanted us to make our best effort not to let any student slip through the cracks, whether it was a registration issue or something to do with housing. ODU sent the message to the campus that we are going to collectively work together to try to help our students."

Former Student Government Association President Chris Ndiritu '16 said Broderick has been "a good champion for students." Ndiritu, now an area coordinator for the first-year experience at Davidson College, said: "Without his vision, everything ODU accomplished would not have been possible."

The University has expanded its strategy, with the addition of programs such as Mane Connect Success Coaching, which provides one-on-one sessions to selected freshmen, and Brother2Brother, a mentorship program for Black and Latino students. Both have shown success increasing retention rates and GPAs.



PHOTO BY SHARA WEBER

diversity, partnerships

Social mobility

In higher education, social mobility is the idea that a graduate from a family with no previous college experience can elevate its financial standing for generations to come. Nearly half of ODU's freshmen are first-generation college students.

The University created a Center for Social Mobility and holds annual symposiums on the subject. U.S. News and World Report added social mobility as a factor in its rankings after its data director attended the first symposium. Last year, U.S. News ranked ODU a "top performer" in social mobility.

Broderick, Payne said, "reminds us of the need to think about where our students are coming from and where we need to take them. The time it hit me the most was at one of the administrative retreats. He said as long as he was president, there would not be differential tuition. Students who come from less money shouldn't have to pick a major based on what it costs."

Diversity and inclusion

Students of color made up less than one-third of ODU's population when Broderick took office. Now they're nearly half.

"I had strong influences from my early days," he said, "people who helped me better understand the need to do everything in my power to make this a welcoming place and to treat people the way we want to be treated. I get some credit, but the campus was very receptive to try to ensure that we're an inclusive place."

Melvina Sumter, director of the Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, said Broderick repeatedly demonstrated his commitment, co-leading last year's March for Justice and attending the annual Empowering Black Females seminar. Ndiritu felt it in his statements condemning hate. "To this day, I still don't see many presidents like him willing to stand up and say, 'This is not tolerated on our campus,' whether it's racism or sexual misconduct. It's the culture that he has built."

New resources

During his tenure, Old Dominion added more than \$1.1 billion in operating and capital resources. ODU, once below the state's "base adequacy" level, now has the highest per-student funding of Virginia's doctoral universities, Broderick said. On the private side, the University has raised \$208 million toward its \$250 million fundraising initiative.

"Every General Assembly member I know told me how much they pay particular attention to what John requested," said Ron Ripley '72, former rector of the board.

"I've been persistent, perhaps a bit annoying," Broderick said. "But I always tried to stay on target about what was important for our students. Between our efforts to keep tuition down, what we did in online learning, our commitment to STEM-H and our success in graduating minority students, people recognized that our performance stacked up to more funding."

Former state Del. Jerrauld Jones, now chief judge of Norfolk Circuit Court, said, "He wouldn't just talk to you when ODU wanted something. He'd keep you in touch and in tune with what was going on at the university. So it was no big deal when he asked for something. You felt invested in it."

The best of times

Named acting president.

Establishment of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Initiative.

Doctoral program in counseling named best in the country.

First Life in Hampton Roads survey released by Social Science Research Center.

Student Success Center, Learning Commons and Goode Theatre open.

\$2 million in campus security enhancements completed.

President's Task Force on Inclusive Excellence created.

College of Business and Public Administration renamed Strome College of Business. Strome Entrepreneurial Center opens.

First Lady Kate Broderick and Board of Visitors member Pamela Kirk co-found Women's Initiative Network to mentor female students.

Partnership expanded with Newport News Shipbuilding and Apprentice School to ease path to bachelor's degrees.

Military Connection Center opens.

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

Unanimously appointed full president, with board citing comprehensive enrollment management plan and strong leadership in face of budget cuts.

Bachelor's degree in modeling and simulation launched, and new academic department approved.

Football returns, with 36-21 opening win against Chowan, after 69-year absence.

Reorganization creates Division of Student Engagement and Enrollment Services to focus on recruitment and retention.

John and Kate Broderick, along with family members, endow Evon-Broderick Award for Community Engagement and Service in honor of their mothers.

Big Blue crowned national Mascot of the Year.

ODU ranked among "Great Colleges to Work For" by Chronicle of Higher Education for first time.

Old Dominion joins Conference USA.

Alumnus Mark Strome announces \$11 million donation for entrepreneurship.

50 faculty positions added to budget.

ODU awarded 100th, 101st and 102nd patents.

ODU Diversity Champion Award renamed for John Broderick.

Barry Arts Building, Hixon Studio Art Building and Brock Commons open.

Cybersecurity major launched.

ODU wins first grant from National Endowment for the Arts.

ODU launches annual Social Mobility Symposiums and establishes Center for Social Mobility.

Barry Art Museum and Children's Learning & Research Center open.

Center for Telehealth Innovation, Education and Research opens in Virginia Beach.

Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship created.

ODU upsets Virginia Tech, 49-35, in football.

Enrollment increases in summer and fall semesters despite pandemic.

School of Cybersecurity launched – first in nation with undergraduate and graduate degrees.

In spring, student-athletes post average 3.5 GPA – the best in ODU history.

Esports program launches remotely in fall.

ODU takes leading role in commemorating 400th anniversary of first African landing in North America.

Old Dominion helps coordinate Dominion Energy launch of two off-shore wind turbines on Atlantic Ocean.

John R. Broderick announces plan to retire in summer of 2021.

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons and Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency open.

Graduate School established.

Richard and Carolyn Barry announce \$37 million gift – largest in ODU history – to open art museum.

Brother2Brother mentorship program launched.

ODU Innovation Center, partnership with City of Norfolk, opens in downtown.

New Education Building opens.

ODU launches Online Virginia Network, in conjunction with George Mason University, to help working adults complete degrees.

Education Trust names Old Dominion among nation's top 15 schools for African American success.

Mitchum Basketball Performance Center opens.

Concert Choir performs at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Business Insider ranks ODU most affordable university in Virginia.

ODU and researchers receive \$42 million in stock shares from Pulse Biosciences for bioelectronics work.

Total of new private and public resources amassed during his tenure exceeds \$1 billion.

Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center opens in Newport News, and Virginia Institute of Spaceflight and Autonomy opens at Wallops Flight Facility on Eastern Shore.

Renovated S.B. Ballard Stadium and Kornblau Field reopen.

Arena in Constant Convocation Center renamed Chartway Arena.

Music program dedicates F. Ludwig Diehn School of Music.

Diverse Issues in Higher Education ranks ODU 14th in nation in number of African American students who graduate every year.

New Chemistry Building and Owens House, 470-bed residence hall named after ODU's first African American rector, open.

Sentara provides \$4 million grant to Old Dominion and Norfolk State to establish joint School of Public Health.

Women's volleyball team begins play, beating George Mason, 3-0.

Music professor emeritus Adolphus Hailstork's "Fanfare on 'Amazing Grace'" performed at inauguration of President Joe Biden.

Kate Broderick's extensive impact

Kate Broderick has been the wife of the president of Old Dominion University—and much more. As First Lady of the University, publicly and behind the scenes, she has nurtured programs and students, leaving her mark from art to accessibility.

"Kate has been an integral part of John Broderick's presidency while making her own contributions to the vitality of the University," said Nina Brown, Eminent Scholar and professor of counseling and human services.

Broderick said she wanted to emulate the standard set by her predecessor, Donna Koch. She's succeeded in her own way.

A former nurse and elementary school teacher, Broderick served in several roles from 2005 to 2014 in ODU's Office of Educational Accessibility, including director and faculty and community liaison. "Kate achieved for many one thing that others could not always accomplish: She empowered students," Violet Strawderman '16 recalled at the opening of the Broderick Dining Commons.

When she received the Humanitarian Award from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities in 2012, John R. Broderick called her an "amazing advocate for students with medical, psychological or learning

disabilities. There is nothing she wouldn't do to help her students succeed, such as the December she drove a golf cart around campus in a snowstorm to ensure they were able to take their final exams."

One of her most significant achievements as First Lady was co-founding the Women's Initiative Network (WIN), which pairs first-generation female students with leading female professionals for mentoring and group sessions on such topics as financial and career planning. One mentor, Jennifer Boykin, president of Newport News Shipbuilding, said WIN has helped "accelerate the growth and success of future women professionals, teaching students about the value of paying it forward and becoming community advocates and leaders early in their career.

The Brodericks with Richard and Carolyn Barry at the Barry Art Museum.



Kate Broderick with football players (from left) Taylor Heinicke, Craig Wilkins and Eddie McClam.

"It's a reflection of Kate and what's important to her and her ideals."

She also has played a large role in the development of the Barry Art Museum. Carolyn Barry, who co-founded the museum with her husband, Richard, said it was Broderick's idea to locate the museum on 43rd Street and Hampton Boulevard instead of a less prominent site.

"Kate is on our board, and she's an advocate for the museum throughout the University community. That's been very helpful," Richard Barry said. "We trusted John and Kate implicitly, and they delivered on every promise they made."

Perhaps her deepest influence has been with the students whom she has mentored. She and Eddie McClam '12, a defensive end, developed a ritual after each football game: She'd find him, ask him "Are you OK? Nothing wrong?" and hug him.

That continued by text when he played for the NFL. "I would always text back, 'Everything good,'" he said.

McClam, a college and career specialist at Oakton High School in Vienna, Virginia, considers her his other mom. She introduces him as her fourth son. "I wouldn't be the man I am today," he said, "if it wasn't for her and her encouragement and advice."

PHOTO BY DAVID UHRIN

John R. Broderick

by the numbers

0

Number of children who didn't get an ODU degree (all three did)



28

Years at ODU



13

Years as president

7,000

Number of African American students last fall

42%

Percentage of graduates in STEM-H fields

470

Number of beds in new Owens House residence hall



63,000+

Number of students who graduated during his tenure

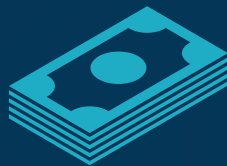


94%

Graduates employed or enrolled in grad school six months after commencement

\$37 million

Largest donation in ODU's history (from Richard and Carolyn Barry, for Barry Art Museum)



\$51

million

Annual research expenditures at ODU

108%

Increase in number of minority graduates



\$2.6 billion

ODU's annual contribution to Virginia economy

\$306 million

Value of University endowment as of Dec. 31, 2020

+\$1.1 billion

New resources acquired during his presidency

Trivia Pursuit:

John R. Broderick Edition

1. What does the R. stand for in John R. Broderick?

- ☒ A Richard
- ☐ B Robert
- ☐ C Ryan
- ☐ D Raleigh

2. What was John Broderick's first job at Old Dominion?

- ☒ A Director of legislative affairs
- ☐ B Assistant professor of communication
- ☐ C Director of public information
- ☐ D Assistant vice president for marketing

3. What did he say during the dedication of the Broderick Dining Commons?

- ☒ A "This building and the wide variety of its food choices are a fitting complement to the rich diversity of our student body."
- ☐ B "Help me keep my promise that nobody on this campus ever feels alone or marginalized. If you see someone dining by themselves, sit with them or, better yet, ask them to join your group."
- ☐ C "To keep our expenses down, please limit yourself to five sushi rolls per meal."
- ☐ D "No anchovies, please."

John R. Broderick

4. Which famous figure has President Broderick NOT cited in a State of the University speech?

- ☒ A Bill Gates
- ☐ B Desmond Tutu
- ☐ C Steve Jobs
- ☐ D Harry Truman

John R. Broderick

5. What did John Broderick say in a 2015 interview was a key factor in his success as president?

- ☒ A Ability to write and communicate
- ☐ B Ability to "read a room"
- ☐ C Ability to persuade legislators
- ☐ D Ability to work on just four hours of sleep

John R. Broderick

6. How many boys do the Brodericks have?

- ☒ A One
- ☐ B Two
- ☐ C Three
- ☐ D They have only girls

John R. Broderick

7. Where did he get his undergraduate degree?

- ☒ A St. Bonaventure University
- ☐ B Canisius College
- ☐ C Northwestern University
- ☐ D Northeastern University

John R. Broderick

8. In a Virginian-Pilot column co-written with Brian Payne last year, what did he say was "one of our most powerful tools to transform the world"?

- ☒ A Zoom
- ☐ B Online education
- ☐ C Data analytics
- ☐ D Blackboard

John R. Broderick

9. What did an uninvited visitor to the President's House once ask him?

- ☒ A Can you change my son's F into an A?
- ☐ B Am I close to Dominion Tower?
- ☐ C When does the tour of the house start?
- ☐ D Do you have Taylor Heinicke's old jersey?

1. C (It's also his mother's maiden name) 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. A 6. C 7. D 8. B 9. C

The word on the street

"He's at the University early, and he leaves late. He really knows who the faculty, staff and students are. If there's something really troubling you, you can talk to him, and he provides feedback. Integrity is what you do when nobody is watching; the average person has no idea how many acts of kindness and respect he does on a regular basis."

~ Melvina Sumter, associate professor of sociology and criminal justice and director of the Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

"Fred and John enjoyed an excellent working relationship. Fred considered John to be a man of great integrity who exercised sound leadership navigating Old Dominion through challenging years of growth and continuing evolution. John and Kate make a great team, wholeheartedly immersing themselves in school activities with the goal of furthering student success. I know Fred would join me in wishing them much happiness in this next chapter."

~ Karen Whyte, widow of former rector Fred J. Whyte

"When I think about John and Kate, I think about transformation. It was almost like they could see the road changing before everybody else. John understood the importance of student success and organized the University around it. He was well ahead of other universities in this work. I channel them when I make decisions. They did so much to show me about innovative, caring leadership."

*~ Former vice president
Ellen J. Neufeldt, now president of
California State University San Marcos*

"I've spoken to players from other schools, and no one has a similar relationship with their president. The fact that he went to most of our games and made an effort to know us means so much to all of the guys I played with. Even now, I know I can text or call any time I need to talk to him, and he'll be there for me."

*~ Taylor Heinicke, quarterback,
Washington Football Team*

"I had monthly meetings with him, but what I really enjoyed was that he always did a check-in and asked about my mom and my little brother. He really cared about who I was and my own personal journey. I felt comfortable sharing some of the things I was going through. He was always attentive and made sure to follow up on how I was feeling."

*~ Former Student
Government
Association president
Chris Ndiritu '16*

"It's appropriate that he's a Monarch. John always had the lion's courage to lead and make things happen. ODU's marine engineering focus is a reflection of John really wanting to understand the opportunities to connect his organization with ours. I applaud him for helping ODU be part of Brooks Crossing, which brings STEM training not just to the youth but to the potential workforce of Newport News."

*~ Jennifer Boykin, president,
Newport News Shipbuilding*

"John R. Broderick is a visionary. John R. Broderick is a kind human being who has time to speak to the masses. John R. Broderick is a friend and mentor and someone who will always have a place in my heart. Working for and with President Broderick has been a wonderful experience. He and First Lady Kate Broderick are terrific people. Their friendship has been immensely important to me and my family."

*~ Sherry Davis, executive assistant
to the president*

"He became special to me in part because he cultivated a relationship with my mother (Corinne Jones). Both of them were New Englanders. Their relationship grew to the extent that it didn't even include me. He'd pick her up and take her out to lunch. It was just wonderful for her. I was very grateful to him for showing her that kind of respect and honor. He didn't have to do that."

*~ Judge Jerrauld Jones,
Chief Judge, Norfolk Circuit Court*

"He's done an excellent job. He managed to get increases from the General Assembly when there was very little money and very little appetite for funding higher education. He put ODU on the national map with the initiatives he supported in terms of culture, diversity and online education. And the University has been named as a very positive place to work, so we give him a lot of credit for supporting a congenial work environment."

~ Nina Brown, Eminent Scholar and professor of counseling and human services

"One of President Broderick's many strengths is his ability to listen – I mean *truly* listen – to have his finger on the pulse of students' concerns. On many campuses, students resort to protests and marches to be heard; at Old Dominion, President Broderick encouraged students to sit with him face to face and give voice to their ideas and interests. In doing this, he taught them that one of the most important aspects of communication is listening."

~ Velvet L. Grant, special assistant to the president

"Marc and John remained close even after he served as rector. He was very fond of John and very proud of his accomplishments. If Marc were here, he would be smiling ear to ear, patting John on the back and saying to him, 'Job well done.' "

~ Connie Jacobson, widow of former rector Judge Marc Jacobson

"In my higher ed Ph.D. program, he taught the two best courses. One was the presidency; the other was internal and external relations. I was amazed he would take the three hours out of his time every week plus all the time that teaching a course takes. Once he had a knee operation. A week later, he's hobbling into class. He came to every class. He didn't sub people in; he was really invested."

~ Andy Casiello, associate vice president for distance education

"His long tenure has been characterized by innovation, bold leadership and commitment to equity. A strong champion of STEM education, President Broderick launched bachelor's and master's programs in cybersecurity, whose graduates will fill thousands of critical IT jobs for decades to come. I am also grateful to First Lady Kate Broderick, who led the University's efforts for greater educational accessibility for students with disabilities and has been a driving force in making ODU a welcoming, inclusive community."

~ Gov. Ralph Northam

"His humility and heart for serving others have been the hallmarks of his success. He has achieved amazing results in private donations and state funding, an expanded University footprint and an increasingly diverse student body. The increase in graduation and retention rates and explosion in research and entrepreneurship are a result of his building a culture of excellence. John and Kate are both people of honor, and I thank them for the sacrifices they made for the next generation."

~ Former Gov. Robert McDonnell

"I think the world of John. Everyone I know feels strongly that he has elevated ODU significantly, and he's tried to leverage what's going on there to help the region and the commonwealth. The other thing I find really sensational about John is that he's got incredible judgment. He doesn't need to be the loudest person in the room. He reads situations well and comes up with the right approach to get jobs done."

~ Community activist Dubby Wynne

**Send your good wishes to the Brodericks at bit.ly/3rS085I
Read more appraisals of the Brodericks at odu.edu/monarchmag**

Building Up

More than two dozen buildings were constructed during John R. Broderick's presidency. They include:



Hugo Owens House



Barry Arts Building



Education Building



Chemistry Building



Quad II Residence Halls



Broderick Dining Commons

PHOTOGRAPHS-OWENS HOUSE BY
ROBERTO WESTBROOK;
OTHER PHOTOS BY SHARA WEBER



Engineering Systems Building

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COVID's consequences:

From Zoom burnout to sharpened focus

Last fall was the first full semester in the world of COVID-19. Here's how it shaped the experiences of six Monarchs – two students, two faculty members and two staff members.



The amount of people on campus was not as much as I was used to, but more than I expected. I think it made me more independent and more focused on my schoolwork. You're not hanging out with your friends. You're just stuck in your room. You have nothing to do but your homework.

In regard to my professors, there was an increase in the amount of assignments they gave. However, they provided anywhere from a two-day to a weeklong time frame to complete exams, which was beneficial to my busy schedule outside of school.

I was surprised at the precautions ODU took – the amount of people they test per week and also how fast the test results come back, sometimes even the same day. I also liked how they made an effort to have in-person events, and not just virtual events. Last semester, they had a basketball contest for average students to participate in.

**~ Nya Thornton, junior,
digital marketing major**

I have two young children. Once the pandemic hit, my kids were home all the time. My own home life being turned upside down made me realize how students' lives were also turned upside down. It helped me adjust my expectations and reframe my efforts. I found students were capable of turning in the same caliber of work, but they needed the grace and flexibility to do it. And I was happy to give it to them.

In my Women in Technology Worldwide class, we read Margot Shetterly's "Hidden Figures," which largely takes place in Hampton Roads. Last semester, I developed a project students could do remotely to research how women in Virginia have contributed to STEM efforts – women who were often hidden in history like the human computers at NACA. My students created an online map of 30 women leaders in STEM who had connections to Virginia. (The map is at bit.ly/3r5PI8i) I'm so proud of the work they did. This project deepened their understanding of local history, while giving them opportunities to do online research and collaborate with each other.

**~ Ruth Osorio,
assistant professor
of English and
women's studies**



The fall semester was different, for sure. It took me forever to find a mask that would fit my face. And I felt a little sad, with no football games to run out of the tunnel with the team, no Homecoming to celebrate. But I found new ways to spread Monarch spirit.

Like the rest of the world, I discovered Zoom, and I used it to teach Monarchs about COVID safety and get prospective students up to speed on "Ice Cream and Cake." I helped the lacrosse team deliver food to the fire station on 43rd Street on 9/11. I made a lot of new Zoom backgrounds for ODU staff. And I dropped in on several online classes and drive-by birthday parties. You should have seen their reactions!

I can't wait for things to get back to normal, so students can stop by Webb Center again to rub my belly for good luck on their exams. Stay safe out there, and REIGN ON!

~ Big Blue





When the pandemic first started and we had to switch online after spring break, I felt my professors were a little bit more lenient. It was like "Turn in what you can."

Coming back in the fall, everything was a little harder. Some of my professors were not as willing to help as much as they did in the spring. My parents were going through a traumatic divorce, and I had to make sure my mom was good in her new place, which put a lot on me. I was in Richmond more than I was in Norfolk.

I fell behind on my classwork, and I had to drop down to six credit hours, which will put me in school a little longer. Those two professors – they were very understanding, and my GPA didn't fall. I'm not used to having all classes online. I don't like being socially distanced and isolated at home. I like to interact with my peers and socialize with people to keep my sanity.

~ Dioré Lindsey, junior, communication major

We've definitely seen an increase in clients presenting with trauma-related disorders – anxiety, depression – but it might be a trend in our culture in general. I do still see quite a few students with social anxiety. However, my group for social anxiety has been challenging to fill virtually. I think that this is in part because of things like "Zoom burnout."

We're trying to fill the gap by offering additional outlets and opportunities for engagement on social media. I manage all of the social media accounts, and we're trying to do most of our outreach and marketing through Instagram with cool features like polls and anonymous Q&As. We also have several support groups. There's one related to COVID. We have others for LGBTQ students, graduate students, women and students of color.

You miss something when you can't be in the room with someone you're counseling – behavioral clues, nonverbals. On the other hand, virtual counseling provides more accessibility. Hopefully, people find it easier to engage in this way.

~ Ragan Killen Cook, professional counselor and outreach coordinator



I came to ODU in July after 25 years at LSU and took over as department chair. I have no experience at Old Dominion that isn't a pandemic. The scale and complexity of learning about ODU and my department in the context of the pandemic is daunting.

I have a faculty of a little more than 30. I've had face-to-face meetings with two or three of them. I've done what I can with Zoom meetings and phone calls, but when you're talking about a large group of people on a Zoom call, you don't build relationships that way.

It's weird when you're having to communicate about core values through email. It's so easy for people to misunderstand. You have to be thoughtful and take your time.

It certainly has required more types of personal connection to hear and support my faculty as we struggle together through novel issues, such as a student who was super-successful in the classroom but is now struggling with online learning.

As a scientist, my research involves young children's social behavior and learning. I'm just in a frozen state. Obviously, I can't do that kind of research and be safe.

~ George Noell, professor and chair, psychology department

Here's how you can reach ODU's Office of Counseling Services:

- 757-683-4401
- odu.edu/counselingservices
- www.facebook.com/ODUOfficeOfCounselingServices/
- www.instagram.com/ODU_CounselingServices/



ODU physics graduate students, 2004; International Linear Collider School, Japan, 2006; 2007 Particle Accelerator Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

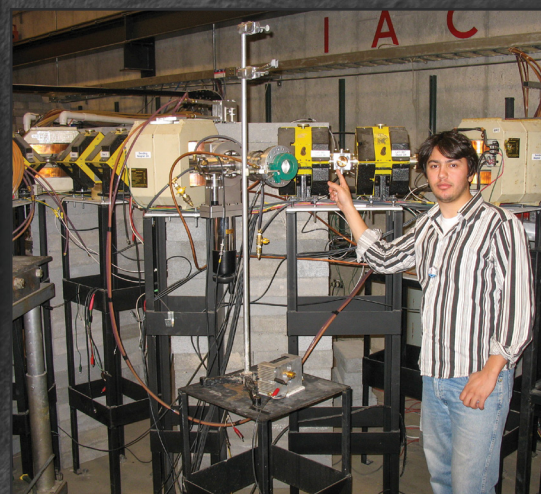
How Serkan Golge survived 3 years in Turkish prison:

BY PHILIP WALZER

Leave it to Serkan Golge (Ph.D. '10) to describe three years of solitary confinement in Turkey from a physicist's perspective.

"I felt like I was a photon," he said. "Once you go the speed of light, time almost stops. I felt like everything slowed down."

He was confined to a dark 15-by-10-foot isolation cell with a toilet and sink. He was let out for only one hour a day, when he'd often walk with a former general who, like Golge, was falsely accused of participating in the unsuccessful 2016 coup against Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan.



Turkish Student Club event with former ODU President Roseann Runte, 2007; Idaho Accelerator Center positron study, 2008; Jefferson Lab positron study, 2008.

It was, Golge said, “a very monotonic life,” but he tried to keep busy.

He did 100 pushups and walked back and forth in his cell for thousands of steps every day.

He read history books.

He prayed and meditated “to keep my sanity intact,” he said.

Golge mostly succeeded. “The worst part was after my parents and kids and wife visited me. I would cry, but I tried to calm down. They kept telling me, ‘Everything will get better.’”

It did, but not right away. He was released from prison in May 2019, but it took another year for Golge and his family to leave Turkey. Even the day of their flight to the United States took a harrowing turn that made Golge wonder if he’d ever get out.

“If you experience something like this, and I hope not, I would recommend: Don’t give up,” he said. “You’ve got to stay strong.”

Now back at his job as a research scientist studying radiation at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, Golge has another, more personal takeaway:

“I consider myself a kind person, but I am much more careful now not to break somebody else’s heart.”

Golge, 41, grew up in Antakya, a city in southern Turkey, and in 2002 received a bachelor’s degree in physics from Fatih University, which has since been closed by the Turkish government. Golge chose to pursue his Ph.D. at ODU because of its strong physics reputation and the tight-knit Turkish community in Hampton Roads.

He said Professors Gail Dodge, now dean of the College of Sciences, and Charles Hyde “taught me how to attack big problems and make them smaller so we can digest them easier. It wasn’t just a physics education. It was a life education.”

Hyde invited Golge to join his team as a graduate research assistant. “That was one of the best decisions I made in my life,” Golge said. At Jefferson Lab, Golge helped design a continuous high-energy positron beam, which was no easy task.

“What has always been done before has been pulsed beams; we needed a continuous beam,” Hyde said. “He really took a challenging problem by the horns to find several possible solutions. He was the first one to really seriously show in detail how it could be done according to the requirements of what we needed at Jefferson Lab.”

In 2013, Golge joined NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, serving as a senior research scientist through a contract with the

University of Houston. He studied ways to protect astronauts from significant exposure to radiation in space.

Golge and his family regularly went back to Turkey to see relatives, but their visit in the summer of 2016 was special. They wanted to introduce their recently born second son.

On July 15, eight days before they were to return to the United States, a faction of the Turkish army staged a failed coup.

Golge, a dual citizen of the United States and Turkey, didn’t think much of it. His parents, however, were nervous. “They said, ‘We know what’s going to happen. They will start arresting random people. It happens all the time in Turkey.’”

The day he was to fly home, Golge was apprehended by officers outside his parents’ house. “They showed me an arrest warrant saying they got an anonymous tip that I worked for the CIA and I’m a terrorist at the same time.”

Golge told them there had been a misunderstanding and showed them his NASA ID card. Unconvinced, they searched his parents’ house, confiscated his passport and took him to a detention center, promising he’d be there only a few hours.

After three days, a lawyer told Golge that the officers found a crucial bit of evidence

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS & SPACE ADMINISTRATION



LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER



Golge returned to his job as a research scientist at NASA in Houston last July.

in his parents' house – a dollar bill. "I'm like, OK? So what? What is the significance of \$1?" But he realized after talking with the attorney that "it wasn't about a single dollar bill. I was an American citizen, in the wrong place and the wrong time. I was the perfect candidate."

Erdogan blamed the coup on Fetullah Gulen, a critic of the Turkish government now living in Pennsylvania. In what Golge called a "guilt by association campaign," he was linked to Gulen because of his attendance at Fatih University and even the Turkish bank where he had an account.

"It wasn't about the evidence," said Golge, who has continually denied involvement in the coup. "It was all about a witch hunt." The anonymous tip against Golge, it turned out, came from a distant relative, angry at being shut out of an inheritance.

Golge said he was never physically assaulted, but he was interrogated at the detention center seven times, usually after he was awakened in the middle of the night. The questioning would go on for up to three hours.

After two weeks there, he was placed for a month in a maximum security prison, where 33 prisoners shared a space meant for six, taking turns sleeping on cots or on the floor. Then, in September 2016, he was moved to solitary confinement.

Initially, Golge was charged with attempting to overthrow the government, which carries

a life sentence. But in February 2018 he was convicted of the lesser charge of membership in a terrorist organization and given a 7½-year prison sentence, which was later reduced to five years.

In May 2019, Golge was let out, but he and his family had to remain in Turkey. He was required to wear a GPS tracker on his ankle and was regularly followed by police. "I was very depressed," he said. "Yes, I was released, but they didn't let me go back to my country."

In April 2020, Golge was finally allowed to leave Turkey. But there was a new stumbling block: the coronavirus.

"The funny thing is, the American embassy purchased my tickets," Golge said. "And then three hours later, the Turkish government suspended all of the flights. You might think I'm crazy, but we laughed. It was dark comedy."

Flights resumed three months later. He and his family were scheduled to leave on June 30. At the airport they faced another obstacle that was no laughing matter.

Officers pulled them out of the waiting line for passport inspection.

"At that time, I lost hope completely," Golge said. "I said, this is it. I started giving everything to my wife – my cash, my credit cards. She started crying; my kids started crying. My son started saying, 'Not again, not again.'"

Fortunately, Golge got through to the State Department, and "after 35 to 40 minutes, they let us go." The Golges boarded their flight to Washington.

Golge and his family returned to Houston, and he restarted his job at NASA on July 13. "It's a very great comfort for me to work on something I love and that I'm good at," he said.

Golge, who's been interviewed by The New York Times and Fox News, is grateful for the support he received from officials including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker and members of the ODU, NASA and Jefferson Lab communities.

His travail reinforced what matters most: "I want people to understand the importance and value of their freedom and their family members and friends and their moments in this life."

Golge hasn't lost his sense of humor. Maybe, he said, he can join a future Mars mission. "It would take about three years, and astronauts stay in an isolated area. I told my friends, I'm ready. I already had this experience."

But when Golge looks at Turkey now, "I'm not laughing.

"Unfortunately, there are thousands of innocent people still in jail," including the general he used to walk with. "They don't even know what they are charged with. Most of them aren't as lucky as I have been."

Black Lives Matter to Norfolk Police Chief

BY PHILIP WALZER

Larry D. Boone (M.P.A. '16) might be the only police chief in America to get a shoutout from an ex-royal.

During a video speech to graduates of her old high school in Los Angeles last year, Meghan Markle spoke about the need for communities to “stand in solidarity” after the killing of George Floyd. “We are seeing that from the sheriff in Michigan or the police chief in Virginia.”

“At first, I said, she can’t be talking about me,” said Boone, 56, who leads Norfolk’s Police Department. But perhaps no other chief in the state took Boone’s approach to Black Lives Matter.

Boone joined protesters outside Norfolk’s Police Operations Center on May 30. After he spoke with them, he held a BLM sign and marched with them for a few minutes.

But, Boone stressed in an interview, he told them he would not participate if they continued chanting insults about the police. In that way, he aimed to stand by his officers while demonstrating support for racial justice.

“Police officers are getting a bad rap, and it’s not fair,” Boone said. “They’re doing a very difficult job. We as a society have to fix all the other stuff – poverty, substance abuse, education. Until we do that, the police are left holding the bag.”

At the same time, Boone viewed his participation as a way to make his officers and others think about inequities. “On so many indicators, African Americans are typically at the bottom. You can’t refute the data.”

It was hardly the first time the department had engaged with activists. For years, it has had regular contact with members of Black Lives Matter and the Original Black



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Larry Boone (M.P.A. '16) advocated community outreach even before the protests of 2020.

Panthers. That intensified after Floyd’s murder: “We met, we talked, we wanted to help.”

The outreach also included programs bringing officers to barbershops to hang out with customers and to elementary schools to tutor youngsters. Now, “the perception of police is different, not just with kids, but with the parents as well; they look at us less suspiciously,” Boone said.

“Larry’s been good for the city during this time when we are facing multiple challenges,” Norfolk Mayor Kenny Alexander ’90 said. “His getting involved in Black Lives Matter is very authentic. He’s physically, emotionally on the streets, and it grieves him when there’s the loss of a child or a teenager. He always asks, ‘Is there something more or better I could have done?’ ”

“Sometimes, I can’t believe I’m doing this,” Boone said. “Neither can the people I grew up with.”

He was the oldest of five children, raised by a single mother in inner-city New Brunswick, New Jersey. “My heroes were the guys I would lock up now,” he said.

As a teenager, Boone was regularly stopped by police looking for Black suspects. He got used to hearing white officers say demeaning things like: “It wasn’t you this time, but it’ll be you next time.”

His anger overflowed. During one stop, an officer grabbed his arm. Boone pulled away and was arrested. Boone’s coaches got him out of detention. But they told Boone’s family he needed a fresh start or things could get worse. So he was sent to Northampton County, North Carolina, to live with his grandparents.

His grades picked up. The bad influences disappeared. “I was expected to go to church, to say, ‘Yes, ma’am,’ ‘No, ma’am.’”

At Georgia Southern, Boone majored in graphic design and was a linebacker for the football team. He hoped to play in the NFL, but a torn ACL derailed his plans.

Boone didn’t know what to do until a visit from a college friend. He was working as an officer in Atlanta. “I’ve never forgotten my reaction,” Boone said. “‘You’re what?’ I never saw African Americans as police officers.”

Despite his past encounters with law enforcement, he gave it a try, attracted by the idea of teamwork and uniforms. He never left.

Boone has spent his entire career with the Norfolk force, starting as an officer in 1989. He worked in units and divisions including K-9, gang suppression and patrol.

He was appointed deputy chief in September 2015 and the following year received his master’s in public administration from Old Dominion. “I cherish my M.P.A.,” he said. “I use it every day.”

Not that it was an easy journey. “They didn’t give me a pass. Meagan Jordan was hard as hell. She brought the heat.” He also praised faculty members David Chapman, Gail Nicula and Wie Yusuf.

In December 2016, Boone became chief of police, overseeing 880 employees. “Being an African American chief with my background – sometimes folks are reluctant to highlight that. But if I don’t think about being African American every day, I’m not being completely honest.”

His long tenure at the department brings plenty of advantages. “Like they say, the old broom knows all the corners,” Boone said.

Boone joined a Black Lives Matter protest in Norfolk last May.





The department posted a card on Facebook last December marking Boone's fourth anniversary as chief.

But to make sure he knew all the corners, Boone scheduled 30-minute meetings with each employee over his first 2 ½ years as chief to better assess their skill sets and encourage their ideas.

Some of those ideas galvanized the department's community programs, which were highlighted in the August issue of Police Chief magazine. They include:

Five-O and Fades – Officers visit barbershops every other week for small talk with customers.

Cops and Curls – Male officers escort girls from 6 to 13 to an annual dance, which also features manicures, games and educational activities.

Cops and Kids Eating (CAKE) – In partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Virginia, officers share an after-school snack with students once a month.

Police Leadership Unveils Success (PLUS) – In conjunction with the Life Enrichment Center of Norfolk and Norfolk Public Schools, 60 officers tutor children from low-income schools one hour a week.

"By the end of the school year, almost every child has raised his reading score," Boone said. "And we know if children can't read by the third grade, there's a good chance they'll end up in prison."

Boone links these programs, as well as the creation of a community relations office, to a reduction in crime rates in Norfolk. The total number of reported incidents dropped 35%, from 12,016 in 2016 to 7,792 last year.

At moments, Boone wasn't sure the Black Lives Matter rally in May would stay peaceful. After the group of 300 had left the Operations Center, the department received a report: The protesters were returning – and threatening to kick in the windows.

Boone stood waiting for them on the front steps: "When they came back, I wanted to be sure the first thing they would see is me." But he kept the riot team inside and out of view to avoid feeding the tension.

When they arrived, "they surrounded me so quickly," Boone said. "I could feel their intensity toward me and the police. I could feel the spittle from their mouths hitting my face."

The group "asked me a ton of questions" and then started chanting "March with us." And he did – after telling them: "I can't march with you if you keep saying those things."

The decision to join the march and hold the BLM sign "was risky for a police chief," he said. "People could misinterpret that. But surprisingly, I got a lot of support, especially from white officers who had been retired for several years."

His approach, Boone said, helps answer the question he heard a lot last year: "How did Norfolk have all those protests and not one arrest or fire or smashed window?"

Alexander said: "When other mayors lost their cities, I didn't lose my city because I had a police chief who listened. It wasn't hard for him to do. He was already there."

Defund the police? "You can't defund the police," Boone said. "That's stupid talk. But we should minimize the types of calls that deal with issues like homelessness and substance abuse. I see it as reimagining reform."

Awards. Boone's honors include the NOBLE Attorney General Eric Holder Leadership Award and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Presidents Award. He was appointed last year to the Virginia State Crime Commission.

Syncing success. The department received worldwide attention for an unusual activity in 2019, and the only victim was Bruno Mars. CBS' "Lip Sync to the Rescue" show awarded the police force its top \$100,000 award for a lip-sync video of "Uptown Funk." The department's Facebook post of the video drew 1.5 million likes. Boone, who isn't in it, said: "When I saw it, I thought: 'You know when something just looks right and feels right.'" Check it out at [youtube.com/watch?v=NZO7ADSsWXAc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZO7ADSsWXAc)



She helped integrate Spotsylvania schools – and ODU

BY DENISE WATSON

PHOTOS BY SHARA WEBER AND
COURTESY OF SHARON MCGLONE



Not that Sharon McGlone '75 needed any reminders to take her back to August 1963. But last year's protests against systemic racism brought back the bracing waves of anger and isolation, and also the resolve, McGlone felt nearly 60 years ago.

As a 9-year-old, she and six other African American girls integrated Spotsylvania County Public Schools in Virginia.

McGlone remembers being the only Black in class reading textbooks depicting slaves with huge smiles picking cotton. The teacher said the Civil War was fought because

Northerners wanted to stop the enslaved from enjoying their good life.

"I remember having these puzzling feelings of why are they smiling while they are picking cotton all day in the sun?" McGlone said in her Norfolk home. "Even as a 9-year-old, I knew something wasn't right. There was no talk about slavery or the enslaved or injustice."

That's why she lectures about her role as a pigtailed pioneer – an experience that also prepared her to be among the few African American students at ODU when she enrolled in 1972.

"I had to break through the same walls of fear and isolation," McGlone said.

She was born in 1954, the year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools were unequal. She was learning how to read in 1958 when Virginia closed several schools to avoid integration.

McGlone's father was in the Army, which was integrated, and had seen integrated schools when he traveled. She was among the youngest of the seven pioneers – four fourth-graders, one eighth-grader and two 11th-graders.

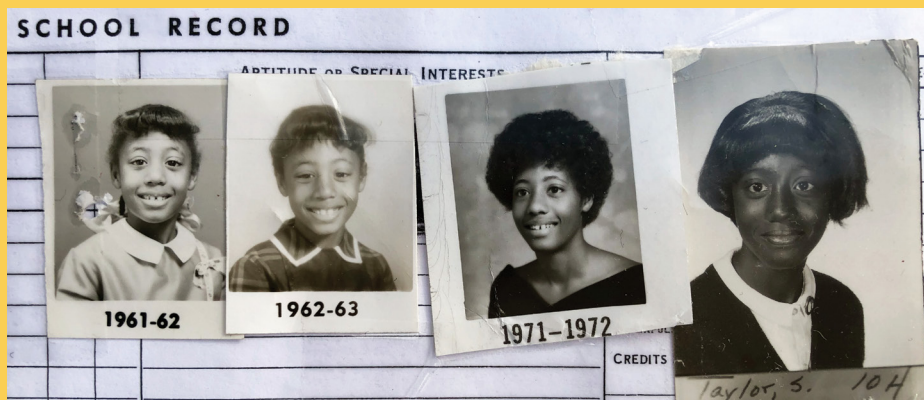
The children were trained to not react to the harassment that was expected.

McGlone remembers four golden rules: Be a good girl, make good grades, represent your family well, and if you were called a name, stay quiet.

Her young brain wondered, "What name would I be called, if not my name?"

She learned soon enough.

To McGlone, that first day of school, Aug. 29, 1963, could have been last week. The impressions are still so fresh.



McGlone had walked across a field to get to the all-Black school, but now she and the African American students were assigned to a bus that took nearly two hours to cross the county to collect them.

That first day, McGlone and her three friends were walked into the auditorium of Robert E. Lee Elementary School while the white students around them stared. Each was then escorted to her class.

As her fourth-grade teacher pointed to a seat for McGlone, a boy announced: "My mama told me not to sit next to a —," and he spat out a racial slur. The teacher snapped back: "That word will never be used again in my classroom, and she will sit where I tell her to sit."

McGlone found comfort in her teacher's words. But they didn't protect her from words like "coon" and "monkey" she and the others heard in the hallways. Some classmates held their noses when she passed as if she smelled bad.

One day, she and her friends tried to go to a Girl Scout troop meeting. They had to wait

McGlone attended the school for two years before the Army reassigned her father. The family eventually returned to Spotsylvania County, where McGlone graduated from high school with honors.

While her father had been stationed in Hampton Roads, McGlone had seen ODU's campus and liked it. ODU eventually offered her the best scholarship package, too.

McGlone majored in psychology to delve into human behavior and thought. As when she was younger, she was often the only Black in her classes and one of fewer than 10 living in Rogers Hall. The students became a tight-knit squad that left its mark on campus.

McGlone was a charter member of the first African American Greek organization at ODU, Delta Sigma Theta, which formed in 1974. The Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity soon followed.

"We started to have a life, a social life, at Old Dominion," she said.

McGlone remembers when the Saturday night dances at Webb Center started to

McGlone getting ready for the first event of ODU's first African American Greek organization, Delta Sigma Theta, in 1974.



children are also ODU graduates — Anthony '01 and Beth '12.

She created a career that made others feel included and supported. As a social worker right out of ODU, she set up parenting and self-esteem classes for struggling families in Ocean View in Norfolk. She later taught middle school English and technology and retired as an instructional technology specialist with Norfolk Public Schools in 2019.

In January, the Spotsylvania County School Board voted to rename Robert E. Lee Elementary School, which she helped desegregate 58 years ago. That the name has remained this long, and that Spotsylvania only recently elected the first African American member to its Board of Supervisors, isn't lost on the woman who as a little girl worked to advance change.

The marches, the protests, "started because we were like, 'This is enough!'" McGlone said. "But it's always been enough."

Denise Watson, a reporter at The Virginian-Pilot, was named Outstanding Journalist of the Year last year by the Virginia Press Association.

McGlone with her husband, Zeke, also a 1975 graduate, outside Rollins Hall.



President James Bugg shakes McGlone's hand during her graduation in 1975.

outside while the whites were let in. Finally, they were told the meeting was canceled.

"We knew what that meant," McGlone said. "It was canceled for us."

The isolation, McGlone said, was balanced by the support she received from her family and the community, including church activities for the Black students. She was also supported by the sense she was a part of something bigger than herself and her loneliness.

mix in Motown tunes with rock. When the Deltas started having step shows at Webb Center, "I had a feeling that we were finally being seen."

At ODU, "I was once again among and apart, but assured that I belonged."

She graduated early in 1975 and married a classmate, Craig "Zeke" McGlone '75, later that year. He served in the Army before retiring in 2006. Two of their four

LEANDADO FOUND THE LUCK OF THE DRAW AT 'FAMILY GUY'

BY ERIC BUTTERMAN



Leandado in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo with a wooden sword he had just bought.

Dante Leandado '98 likes doing family drawings. Of the doting father. The children. Their playful dog.

Whom are we kidding? He works on "Family Guy."

Many of their jokes aren't even printable for this magazine. What is printable is that it's a phenomenon like few shows in the history of TV. Canceled twice in its first few seasons, it's become a cult classic. Leandado, with pen or computer at the ready, is one of the artists who make sure if you're drinking milk that it will come out of your nose.

He's been an artist and designer for the Fox comedy for the past 14 years. His work usually appears on four to five shows a season.

Leandado grew up drawing comics in Virginia Beach. But he didn't think he had the talent to become a professional artist.

Old Dominion, where he studied fine arts with a concentration in studio, helped him visualize how to improve his work, paying attention to "proportions, anatomy, lighting, that sort of thing."

Within a year of receiving his degree, Leandado ventured, like so many entertainment hopefuls, to L.A. in the hope of breaking in. And like so many others, he tried to keep his head above water by working retail. He got "the call" while working the register at a Borders bookstore. Leandado had landed a job at Klasky Csupo, a studio that made cartoons for Nickelodeon.

It was the luck of the draw.

Leandado soon found himself a character designer on "The Wild Thornberrys," one of the most popular animated TV shows at the time. A character designer assesses the style of the show and draws panels to fit that style.

Leandado still recalls the first time his work was broadcast. "It was super quick, not much screen time, but I was just happy it stuck close to what I submitted," he says. And "it was weird to see it on TV in color."

His work has appeared on other shows, including "Rugrats" and "As Told by Ginger."

In 2007, Leandado began working for "Family Guy." He's drawn them all. Peter, Lois, that innocent baby. Oh, so innocent.

The show's humor requires just the right touch. "It's kind of deadpan, so in some scenes the dialogue carries it," he says, "but if it's a physical gag, you have to depend on your own sensibilities."

Leandado, who has worked from his Pasadena living room since March 2020, gets the greatest satisfaction when "a show goes over well."

"When you put the work in, and the director and supervising director are happy with it, and if it gets good laughs in the screening, it's like euphoric."

Eric Buttermann is a freelance writer in McKinney, Texas.



PANELS COURTESY OF FOX

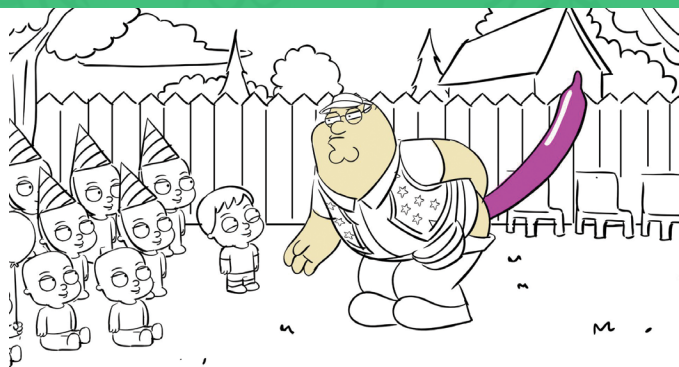
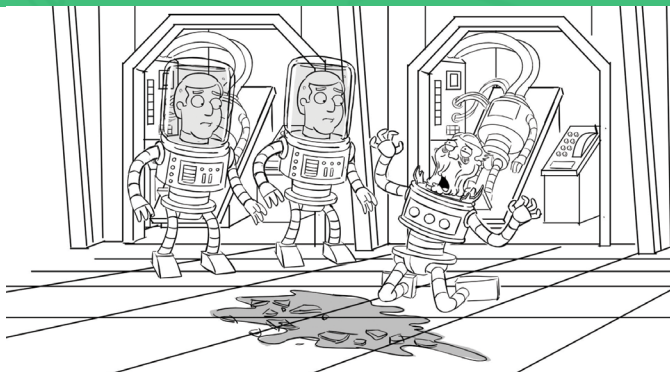


BRIAN THE DOG'S DEATH SCENE

"I was surprised that I was assigned to board such an important scene. I remember the director telling me, 'You're just killing off a major television character. No pressure.' Haha! Yeah. No pressure."

FAMILY GUY GOES EXTRATERRESTRIAL

"A simple, quick, and silly cutaway gag. I liked the retro sci-fi look, and I remember laughing to myself while I was working on it."



WHY'S THAT PURPLE BALLOON THERE?

"Peter is working a kid's birthday party. He's inflating balloons with his farts and tying them into balloon animals. C'mon! Who doesn't enjoy a good fart joke?"

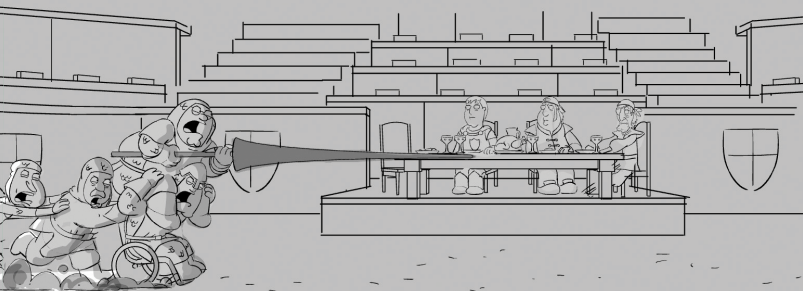
BRIAN TURNS WEREWOLF

"This is from an episode about a proposed reboot of the show. This sequence was the show reimagined as a 'gritty, supernatural teen drama.' Sequences like these are fun to work on, because we're allowed to break rules, and the light horror aspect of it was pretty fun to play with."



PETER AND THE BOYS CHARGE FORWARD

"This is a scene from a sequence in which Peter and the boys are attempting to lay siege to a medieval-themed restaurant. It's a ridiculous premise, it was a lot of work (there was a lamp store they demolish), but fun to do!"



Stepping in to lead (twice) through tough times

BY PHILIP WALZER

Nearly 30 years ago, Maria Arvelo Lumpkin (M.A. '98) was on the verge of graduating from high school in Columbia, South Carolina, with zero college prospects.

She wasn't a good test-taker and had been rejected from six schools. But at a college fair, a representative from Saint Augustine's University – a small, private historically Black institution in Raleigh, North Carolina – encouraged her to apply, and she got in.

Four years later, the president of the university told Lumpkin, then senior class president, she'd have his job one day.

She didn't think much of his prediction. He was right.

Lumpkin led her alma mater in two four-month stints as interim president in the past year and a half. The first was before the new president arrived. She reassumed the role unexpectedly from October 2020 to February 2021 after the president, Irving McPhail, died of complications from COVID-19 three months into his term.

Lumpkin, who'd been McPhail's chief of staff, said: "We embraced each other. We had admiration for each other. Dr. McPhail described me as his succession plan."

When she learned of his death from the board chairman, "I told him I needed a moment to take a deep breath." The next day, she attended a memorial service, followed by a walk in the rain to the president's home, where mourners laid red and white roses.

She cried recalling those days, but she maintained a strong exterior at the time. "The support of my husband and my colleagues throughout the nation helped fortify me and build me up spiritually,"

Lumpkin, 46, said. "Most importantly, I drew strength from my students. They are my greatest inspiration."



Lumpkin received a master's degree in urban studies at ODU. "It prepared me to be a leader in a diverse world. It gave me the opportunity to do research in urban communities and to understand how people are truly disadvantaged."

She cited then-President James Koch and Cecelia Tucker, director of community relations, for their support. "I am here," Lumpkin said, "because of the impact she had on my life."

She gravitated to student services, where she has served in roles including assistant dean of students at North Carolina Central and vice president for student affairs at Atlanta Metropolitan State College.

At historically Black colleges and universities, financial aid is a crucial part of student services, she said. Also important "is helping students of color experience the international diaspora." Lumpkin oversaw the travel of more than 500 students to five continents. "A passport is not only a passport to travel but a passport to understanding who they are and finding their place in the world."

She joined Saint Augustine's in October 2019 as chief operating officer. The following March, the board appointed Lumpkin interim president while continuing its presidential search.

Lumpkin faced "the biggest experiment in the university's history" – COVID-19. The school continued in-person classes through the spring and fall while offering online instruction.

Saint Augustine's raised \$30,000 – from donations and the CARES Act – to expand and improve campus hot spots and ensure every student had a laptop.

The university progressed despite the pandemic. Enrollment rose 5% in the fall to 1,076. "SAU mined the market to find students that needed access to education," Lumpkin said. And she called nearly every applicant.

In mid-July, McPhail became president. Lumpkin began serving as his second-in-command. McPhail brought decades of leadership experience, as founding chancellor of the Community College of Baltimore



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
SAINT AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY

She cited then-President James Koch and Cecelia Tucker, director of community relations, for their support. "I am here," Lumpkin said, "because of the impact she had on my life."

"Students are my greatest inspiration," Maria Lumpkin says.

County and a former president of LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis.

They met daily. "My goal was to learn as much as possible from him and to support and undergird his transformation of the university."

McPhail took COVID-19 seriously, sometimes wearing two masks. At the end of the day, he told the Raleigh News & Observer, he'd drive around campus to check on students' behavior. If they weren't wearing masks or were congregating too closely, he'd remind them to follow safe practices.

Lumpkin was in McPhail's office in mid-September when he learned he might have been exposed. "That was the last time that I saw him physically," she said. "The next day, I prepared for him to tape his convocation speech virtually in his home, in his regalia. That was his last public speech."

McPhail tested positive, was hospitalized on Oct. 3 and died 12 days later – three months after he had arrived. After McPhail learned he had been exposed, Lumpkin quarantined, also tested positive and experienced mild symptoms.

"My most difficult challenge after he died was to balance my grief and my strength to lead simultaneously," Lumpkin said. "The university's mission had to continue."

As interim president, she heard McPhail whispering to her. "I embraced the vision that he offered, but I asserted myself as my own person and my own leader."

She pushed a "Blue Ocean Strategy," encouraging an updated approach to leading historically Black colleges and universities. Saint Augustine's announced its first master's degree – in public administration – and prepared to open a public health center to hold classes and serve the community.

Lumpkin said she helped raise more than \$13 million in federal and state grants and private money, and expanded partnerships with companies including Apple, Google and Pfizer.

"She was open to hearing from students and what their opinions might be, and she was quick to jump on Zoom or an Instagram live event," said Mareyah Washington, a junior majoring in business who is the student representative on the Board of Trustees. "She was up to the challenge each time."



In February, Saint Augustine's board chose as permanent president McPhail's widow, Christine Johnson McPhail, herself a former college president. Lumpkin continues to work in an administrative role at the institution.

"I am proud to have served Saint Augustine's University," Lumpkin said. "I am excited about the future of my alma mater, and I will always conspire for her success."

Jamie Grooms

Tapping a salamander's secret powers

STORIES BY PHILIP WALZER

The axolotl, a salamander from Mexico, weighs as much as a can of soup. Its big head always seems to be sporting a smile.

Most important, it has an amazing capacity to regenerate body parts, including arms, tails, even pieces of its brain. **Jamie Grooms '84** believes those gifts will improve the health of humans.

Grooms' Florida company, RegenX Science, is manufacturing a powder from the skin of axolotls. Initial tests show it reduces scarring, infection and inflammation in animals healing from wounds.

Grooms hopes to get a product on the market this year. He also plans to donate 10% of RegenX's dividends to Old Dominion.

"I see the value ODU brought, opening up the world to me," said Grooms, 61. "I even loved making student loan payments because my education put me in a job to make that payment and still thrive."

Alonzo Brandon, ODU's vice president for university advancement, calls Grooms the "consummate entrepreneur. He's had a great track record of success with his startups."

His previous ventures include AxoGen, which harnesses technology to repair damaged nerve tissue and restore motor function, and Regeneration Technologies, which produces surgical implants.

The inside story, though, is less rosy. "Every company I start almost closes," Grooms said. "But I'd rather be close to being out of business than have to navigate big corporate life. I'm a startup person."

Grooms grew up in Woodbridge, "a Section 8 housing kid. You feel it every day. You have three pairs of pants and three shirts, and that's it for the whole year."

At ODU, he was surrounded by "a lot of people committed to learning" and majored in biology. "Biology is science," Grooms said, "but it's a philosophy to explore life. It gives you a scientific methodology and the foundation to make decisions."

His first job after ODU was at LifeNet Health in Virginia Beach, washing and sterilizing lab instruments for 3 ½ years.

Grooms moved to Florida and served as director of the University of Florida Tissue Bank from 1992 to 1995. But his brainstorms, which would eventually inspire his companies, received a chilly reception.

"Academics sees the analytics of the past," he said. "Entrepreneurship is the projection of the future."

Years later, he blended the worlds of entrepreneurship and higher education as CEO of the Florida Institute for Commercialization of Public Research. "With \$25 million of state money," he said, "we helped form, nurture, coach and fund



71 companies with an economic impact approaching \$2 billion today."

After that, "I wanted to slow things down in life," Grooms said. But he became transfixed by the superpowers of the axolotl. "This material is so unique; it's the most exciting thing for healing care. I didn't have a choice."



Startup tip:

"If you're a first-time CEO, you need to have an executive coach. An executive coach helped turn me around."

DeShanta Hairston

Bookstore owner's tweet boosted sales

After the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and the upsurge in BLM rallies, **DeShanta Hairston '14** felt the need to speak out. About herself.

On June 2, the owner of Books and Crannies in Martinsville, Virginia, tweeted this:



Hairston said: “I just got to a point where I was frustrated. You get so used to a certain way of life that you don’t realize how problematic it is.”

Hairston received more than 340,000 likes and was retweeted 35,000 times. Online sales doubled, and in-store business also shot up.

“So many people had so many encouraging things to say about it,” Hairston, 32, said. “It was kind of weird, but it was kind of reassuring, too – that there are people in the world that still care.”

Hairston, not surprisingly, was a nonstop reader growing up in Martinsville. “I even started my own little book club,” she said, sharing installments of “The Daughters of the Moon” series with girls in her middle school.



She got an associate degree at Patrick Henry Community College and transferred to ODU, taking online classes and majoring in professional writing. “I never knew exactly what I wanted to do post-college, but I figured I’d follow my passion. It worked out in the end.”

Martinsville had been without a bookstore for a decade. “I missed the feeling of browsing and picking out books, and I thought if I missed it, other people did, too.”

So she opened Books and Crannies, with the help of a \$12,500 Startup Martinsville grant, in a revitalized historic building in September 2016.

During the pandemic, Hairston said, “I honestly didn’t know if I would have to close. I had no expectation of going viral on Twitter.”

The events that inspired her tweet also created a flurry of interest in books about race. “All of (Ibram) Kendi’s books are selling off the shelves,” Hairston said.

The pandemic, she said, has also triggered a positive trend – “a major shift in support of indie bookstores. I’m really, really optimistic about 2021 and the years to come. I’m looking forward to continue to spread my love for books.”

Her 13-year-old son, **Treytan**, is much more into basketball than reading, though she entices him with sports books. She’s hopeful about her 2½-year-old daughter, **Marleigh**. For her first two years, **Marleigh** spent nearly every day with Hairston in Books and Crannies. “I call her my ‘bookstore baby.’”

Startup tip: “Don’t focus on what’s going to make you money. Consider what you’re passionate about. If it’s something you love, your passion will show and you’ll eventually make money.”

Chris Simmonds

Turning a waste-not mindset into a business



PHOTO BY CHUCK THOMAS

Startup tip:

Challenge conventional wisdom. For example, most business plans are built on achieving profitability within two to five years. "I wanted to be profitable in year one," Simmonds said. And he is.

Chris Simmonds '07 hopes his recently opened Less Than stores in Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Newport News make sustainability *more than* a passing thought.

The stores feature non-plastic bottle brushes, reusable cotton swabs, refill stations for soap, shampoo and laundry detergent – even biodegradable poop bags for dogs.

Simmonds likes to describe his businesses as “zero waste and refill shops.” The goal is to “create less waste and use less chemicals than before.” All of the products, he said, are either plastic-free or can be reused, recycled or composted.

Simmonds grew up poor in St. Thomas, which introduced him to a waste-not philosophy. “We shopped at the food bank, and I wore hand-me-downs. We didn’t throw anything out.”

His family moved to Virginia Beach when he was in middle school. He started his first business at age 18 – a website that sold parts for foreign cars. “I started it as a way for me to get my parts cheaper,” he said.

At ODU, Simmonds found that faculty members “centered more on your thoughts and supporting your ideas versus memorizing content.” He majored in psychology. “It shapes your mind to understand people better. I think it’s applicable to every field.”

He had another business at the time – Adamas Fashion House – which sold T-shirts, accessories and outer wear. Adamas, coincidentally, was next door to the current location of Less Than in Ghent.

After Simmonds graduated, he closed Adamas and began working with children

with autism in Virginia Beach City Public Schools and, later, with children with behavioral issues for a health care company.

In 2014, he established Accord Counseling, helping children and young adults at risk of being removed from their homes. “We have an outlook that people should behave in certain ways,” Simmonds, 39, said. “Then you go into these environments, and you see things happening in ways you’ve never seen before. It can be scary.”

He left Accord Counseling to open his Less Than stores. “I wouldn’t call it burnout. I felt that I had made a contribution and wanted to do something else.”

Simmonds trains his staff not to pitch products but to “listen, learn and teach. Whatever a person needs – those items will stand out for them.”

He didn’t flinch from opening during the pandemic because “people are still washing their dishes and brushing their teeth.” But Simmonds acknowledged that the pandemic “takes your plan and balls it up.” For instance, shipping delays created order backlogs.

Among the other items he sells: Deodorant without aluminum and soaps free of palm oil, which contributes to deforestation and animal extinction.

Simmonds’ ultimate goal: Opening more stores all the way to Washington. “I want to make sustainability more accessible to people,” he said.

For more information on Less Than, go to golessthan.com.

Hamilton Perkins

Making bags from plastic and pineapples

If Hamilton Perkins '08 hadn't gained 40 pounds when he was getting his M.B.A. at the College of William & Mary, he might not be selling designer bags made of recycled plastic bottles and pineapple leaves.

Perkins, who had played basketball and run track in high school, wanted his sleek physique back. He started drinking water. Lots of water. Eight bottles a day.

"I didn't throw out the bottles," he recalled. "I said, let's see how much of a problem this is, and I kept seeing the plastic pile up. I thought, this is insane. How do we do something to address it?"

As a result, in 2014 he launched the Hamilton Perkins Collection, marketing stylish yet eco-friendly bags. Most items are made of recycled plastic bottles, reused vinyl from billboards and the fiber from pineapple leaves. The pineapple, Perkins said, "serves as a great substitute for leather."

He also sells backpacks, accessories and, since last year, masks made of recycled material. More than 150 retailers, including West Elm and Zappos, carry his items.

Perkins began his business online. But face-to-face interaction helps "educate and inspire the client." So he opened a pop-up store in MacArthur Center in May 2019 as a one-year experiment. It succeeded despite the onset of the pandemic, Perkins said.

In the past year, online business has remained strong, and corporate sales have grown. Clients include the New York City Sanitation Department, which bought thousands of masks, and the C.F. Martin guitar company, which wanted customized bags for its staff. He's also donated masks to the ForKids homeless shelters and local first responders.

Perkins' first venture was a locker-decorating business in middle school at Christ the King Catholic School in Norfolk. With clip art and magazine photos, he made collages for students. The principal shut it down.

His next enterprise – selling gently used sneakers – lasted longer.

He transferred to ODU from Radford University after his mother died. Perkins started in sport management. "It wasn't as fulfilling as I had expected; I wanted to be in the game, playing." So he switched to business marketing.

His studies and experience at the Strome Entrepreneurial Center, he said, "gave me the foundation and structure and set me up for success beyond the classroom."



Perkins won \$25,000 in the Virginia Velocity business pitch competition in 2016 and received a \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Startup tip: "You have to be customer-obsessed. If you start a business, you want to be sure you're solving a problem."

Before W&M, Perkins worked for Bank of America in areas including sales and marketing. Even then, his customer savvy paid off: One year, he said, he became the top sales adviser out of a division of 1,000, topping \$1 million.

"The pandemic has brought us 10 years into the future," Perkins said. "It's taught us so many things." But as for what's next, "I'm not even close to being able to predict anything."



Clockwise from top left, Adjo Kavege checks the elder Big Blue's pulse and gives him medications; she, Alvin Paul Calderon and Ariana Montemayor also try to decipher the clues so he can escape.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK THOMAS

Tremblay and Janice Hawkins, a clinical associate professor, got the idea when they visited an Escape Room with a student after a conference in 2017. “We had a blast,” Hawkins said, “and we came back jibber-jabbering about the Escape Room.”

Meanwhile, Lynn Wiles – University Professor and undergraduate program director – was troubled that students’ results in the patient safety and medication sections of the nursing boards had dropped, though they still exceeded the national average.

The three – along with Beth Thompson ’01 (M.S.N. ’03), who has since left ODU – came up with the plan for the nursing Escape Room. It debuted as a pilot for nursing seniors in the fall of 2018. Since then, about 200 juniors have gone through it.

The patient – a blinking, breathing mannequin – is supposed to be the grandfather of Big Blue, eager to get to a postgame party. Wiles, stationed in the control room next door and assisted by simulation technician David Figgs, provides his voice.

Deciphering clues scattered in the room, the students unlock the computer, figure out what meds to give the elder Big Blue and, ultimately, help him escape. Most students get it all done. Kavege, Calderon and Montemayor – none of whom had been to an Escape Room before – gave him the right doses of metoprolol, Lasix and insulin, but ran out of time to arrange his escape.

Wiles told them that they succeeded in the most important part: “You did a wonderful job administering the meds.”

The experience, Hawkins said, also encourages a vital nursing skill – communication. “When you’re running a code, you need to talk out loud.”

The Escape Room has sparked interest beyond ODU. In 2019, the faculty members provided demonstrations to more than 200 people at an international conference in Washington. Last year, the American Journal of Nursing published their article, and Hawkins was featured on the radio show “With Good Reason.” (withgoodreasonradio.org/episode/seeing-the-future-of-medicine/)

“It’s something I’d recommend for any nursing program,” said senior Monique Kinsey, who went through the Escape Room in 2020. “It’s a really good way for a new nursing student to build a little more confidence in administering medications.”

A great escape (room) for nursing students

BY PHILIP WALZER

The nursing student introduced herself to the patient and asked for his name, birthday and allergies.

Standard procedure. Except the patient was a mannequin in ODU’s Virginia Beach Center. And the student, Adjo Kavege, accompanied by Alvin Paul Calderon and Ariana Montemayor, all juniors, had to solve a series of medical clues to help him get out of the room within 30 minutes.

Enter Old Dominion University’s version of the Escape Room, which faculty members say reinforces newly taught skills and foreshadows real-life nursing demands, such as working under pressure.

“When you’re on the floor, you really need to complete certain tasks in a certain amount of time,” said Beth Tremblay, a senior lecturer in the School of Nursing. Plus, “the ER has all of these clues and puzzles, and our job as nurses is to solve them.”

WELCOME TO OUR SIM CENTER

DATE: Today ROOM #: 214 ROOM PHONE:

Allergies: PCN Weight (Kg): 260 lbs

My Physician: DR Monarch

Diet: Cardiac

Room Service: room cool!

Housekeeping: room cool!

Activity: Up ad lib

Full Precautions: DC for parade!

Questions/Family Contact(s): Lil Blue - 757-683-5259

Go Monarchs!

Pain Level: 0 NO HURT 1 HURTS LITTLE BIT 2 HURTS LITTLE MORE 3 HURTS EVEN MORE 4 HURTS WHOLE LOT 5 HURTS WORST 6 WORST PAIN



PHOTO BY CHUCK THOMAS

Luisa Igloria: 'Poetry is technology, too'

BY PHILIP WALZER

Q You've written a poem a day for more than 10 years. Why did you start, and what have been the unexpected pleasures?

A It started on Nov. 20, 2010. We were snowed in, and everything had come to a grinding halt. I didn't intend to do this daily, but I kept coming back to it. I wanted to take that

space, even if it was only a half hour, and stop grumbling about how little it was and stay there for a while. One of the best things was that it gave me a chance to know myself more as a writer. It also has made me feel a little less anxious about immediate judgment. In that sense, it's liberating.

Q What are your goals as the state's poet laureate?

A A Wikipedia page on "Virginia poets" lists 62 poets - mostly white, mostly male. Where are the BIPOC poets, LGBTQI poets, immigrant poets? I'd like to create an online database that gives a more accurate map of what poetry is in Virginia. In April, for National Poetry Month, I curated a "Poem-A-Day" series in partnership with the Slover Library, featuring Virginia writers.

I imagine statewide writing prompts that students could participate in, from grade school through college. I'd like to foster more community, more outreach, around poetry.

Q What are the best classroom techniques to improve writing?

A It's important to cultivate more than a surface attention to things, to people. We want to be able to describe the world around us in detail. Jargon or abstraction - that's not usually the language of poetry. I keep saying to my students, poetry is technology, too - technology that helps us do things better, see things better.

Q You received an international award for your ecopoetry. Define ecopoetry and how it differs from the writings of poets like Frost.

A The nature poetry you might be familiar with in more traditional encounters often uses nature as a prop or backdrop to the human angle. Ecopoetry is about how we're only one of many species, and we are not necessarily the most important. We're part of a wider web that will collapse if we don't recognize that what we do affects everything in this fragile system.

Read Igloria's "Poem with Statues Falling," and hear her thoughts on writing about social issues at www.odu.edu/monarchmag

Luisa A. Igloria, Louis I. Jaffe Endowed Professor of English and Creative Writing, last year was named Virginia's poet laureate. She has published 14 collections and five chapbooks. Igloria recently spoke about her poem-a-day writing habit, her plans as poet laureate and her vision of ecopoetry.

Q During your Provost's Spotlight interview last year, you said your favorite word at the time was "between." What is it now?

A This might sound cliché, but because of all the developments on the national scene as well as from the pandemic, a good word might be "possibility." It helps us think of what is beyond the current moment we're in.

Remembering Larry Atkinson and his epic research

BY JIM RAPER

A decade ago, the first issue of Monarch magazine was published, with a cover story headlined “Adapting to Our Changing Environment” and featuring commentary by Larry Atkinson. He was an Eminent Scholar, the Samuel and Fay Slover Endowed Professor of Oceanography and the leader of the University’s Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Initiative.

I remember this well because I was the founding editor of Monarch and I wrote that story.

Larry and I had built a friendly relationship beginning in 2005, when I joined ODU to write about the newsworthy research of the faculty. He was, as I found, one of the most newsworthy faculty members.

When he wasn’t doing his own research, he was helping others with theirs. I remember him taking pains to help writer Paul Clancy describe in his book “Ironclad” the weather pattern that doomed the USS Monitor.

We lost touch after I retired in 2015. I had the honor of writing his obituary for the University website after he died in December.

With a heavy heart I re-engaged with a dozen or so of the administrators and faculty members who had worked closely with Larry.

The response to my inquiries was a flood of phone calls and emails, an analogy in keeping with Larry’s focus on sea level rise and other physical measurements of coastal waters associated with climate change.

He worked on a grand stage, tackling projects and conducting research all along the East Coast, in Southern California,

Japan, Chile and Spain. He chaired a U.S. Department of Interior science advisory committee that assessed environmental studies in areas of the outer continental shelf. He was a member of numerous other national and international research teams. An editor of two oceanography magazines. A fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

“I consider him one of the most influential people in ODU’s history,” said John R. Broderick, Old Dominion’s president.

During his 35-year career at ODU, Larry served as chair of what was then the Department of Oceanography and director of the Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography. Broderick and others noted Larry’s rare gift for evaluating the strengths of scientists and other researchers and putting them in positions to succeed.

Thomas Royer, a former oceanography chair, remembers Larry coaxing him into an unlikely move from another university because Larry knew of his experience designing a research boat. ODU had just won a grant to build what was to be the RV Fay Slover, and Royer was just the man to design it.

Larry, who was 79, remained an active researcher until just months before his death. He helped ODU take advantage of its research strengths and coastal location to become a leader in climate-change mitigation research. His passing is a setback, but his work has helped put in place the people and sense of purpose to continue ODU’s contributions to this important mission.



Atkinson with Deborah Steinberg, an oceanographer with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

Read more about Larry Atkinson at odu.edu/news/2021/1/larry_atkinsonn_obit#.YC7wx5RNKigQ

Jim Raper is a former editor of Monarch magazine.

Fish, Li win state faculty award

BY PHILIP WALZER

Jennifer Fish and Ling Li are Old Dominion University's 2021 winners of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award.

They sit on different ends of the academic spectrum: Fish in women's studies, Li in supply chain management. But both chair their departments and have published widely. And they're keen on trying new things to reach students.

What opportunities do recent developments present for women's studies?

"The pandemic reveals what we've tried to show about the severe social and economic divisions in the world. But we have a moment of light and hope. The political changes we've witnessed offer opportunities to make gender and racial justice a central priority in public leadership."

What impressed your students the most from your project helping immigrants on the Peninsula?

"That the international issues we study are alive in Hampton Roads. Families often invited us into their homes and offered incredibly kind gestures of connection. An

Afghan family who had been in the country just a week gave us tea and spices they had carried in their luggage from Kabul. Moments like that create a template for empathy and human generosity."

In addition to your writings, you've produced four documentaries. What does that medium allow you to do that you can't with academic research?

"I'm a great believer in humanizing stories. I teach about issues such as migration and refugee displacement. It's one thing to look at laws and policy; it's another to actually witness individual lives through film. Those mini-teachables really resonate with students beyond the classroom."



JENNIFER FISH
Professor and chair,
women's studies



LING LI
Eminent Scholar, professor and
chair, information technology
and decision sciences

Define supply chain management:

According to a textbook Li wrote, it's the process of distributing "the right product at the right quantities to the right locations at the right prices in the right condition, with the right information and at the right time" to minimize costs and maximize customer satisfaction. "ODU has trained more than 1,000 undergraduates and 60 graduate students; we've also upgraded the skill sets of the existing workforce."

On juggling teaching, research and chairing:

"Every day is a working day. I don't have a weekend or holidays." Even when Li cooks, she multi-tasks – watching a video or listening to a TedTalk and then

jotting notes. The good news: "Higher education is a lot more supportive for women now."

On making classes relevant: She breaks up the math with practical examples. Like dumplings. "Sometimes you have too much filling at the end – or you run out of wraps. If you have a good operational strategy, you should have the right amount of fillings and number of wraps." She also takes students to the Port of Virginia and the Target distribution center "to see how their classroom lessons play out in the business world."

Read more about Fish and Li at www.odu.edu/monarchmag



Old Dominion University helped coordinate the launch last summer of two wind turbines 27 miles off the Virginia Beach coast. The Dominion Energy initiative is one of the largest offshore wind projects in the Southeast.

PEOPLE

Natalie Diaz '00 (M.F.A. '07), who received a MacArthur Foundation “genius grant” in 2018, became the youngest chancellor ever elected to the Academy of American Poets.

Ted Ellis, whose artwork depicting Black history appeared at the Goode Theatre last year, was appointed Scholar in Residence for the College of Arts and Letters.

Nancy Grden, associate vice president of the Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, has added a few titles. She’s also the executive director of the new Hampton Roads Maritime Collaborative for Growth & Innovation, and she was named one of Virginia Business’ “100 People to Watch: Rainmakers.”

“Fanfare on ‘Amazing Grace,’ ” a work composed by **Adolphus Hailstork**, emeritus professor of music, was performed at the inauguration of President Joe Biden.

Charlotte Kasic was named interim director of the Barry Art Museum, succeeding Jutta-Annette Page. Kasic was previously manager of museum education and engagement.

Natalia Pilato, assistant professor of art, was named Higher Educator of the Year by the Virginia Art Education Association.

Don Stansberry was appointed vice president for student engagement and enrollment services after serving in the role on an interim basis for 18 months. He also recently received the Dynamic Senior Student Affairs Officer Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

Ben Stuart was appointed dean of the Batten College of Engineering and Technology after serving as interim dean.

Ingrid Whitaker, associate professor of sociology and criminal justice, was re-elected to the Portsmouth School Board.

Jessica Whitehead, the chief resilience officer for the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency, was appointed the first Joan Brock Endowed Executive Director of ODU’s Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

\$4 million from Sentara Healthcare to Old Dominion and Norfolk State University to establish a School of Public Health.

\$3.9 million from the National Science Foundation to ODU’s School of Cybersecurity and Center for High Impact Practices to prepare cyber professionals for federal jobs.

\$105,000 from Lumina Foundation to increase enrollment and graduation of underrepresented minorities.

RANKINGS

Six online bachelor’s and master’s programs ranked among the nation’s best by U.S. News & World Report.

In terms of diversity, ODU ranks in the **top 15%** in the country, according to College Factual.

52 current and former faculty members are listed by Stanford University among the top 2% of most-cited scientists.

Her scientific passion fueled a long journey to degree

BY PHILIP WALZER



PHOTOS BY CHUCK THOMAS

During the five months she was homeless a decade ago, Scarlet Aguilar-Martinez was hanging out one night behind a Walmart in Birmingham, Alabama.

She started talking about the ability of praying mantises to continue mating even after the female bites off the male's head because of the location of the male's nerve cells. "I made everybody fall asleep because I was talking about insects."

Her passion for science outlasted her struggle for survival. In May, Aguilar-Martinez will graduate from Old Dominion University at age 33 with a near-perfect GPA. She'll enter the University of Michigan's doctoral program of chemistry in the fall, aided by a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

"I won an award in elementary school in perseverance," she said. "I've always been that way. My parents had it. My grandparents had it. We just keep working."

Chemistry Professor Patrick Hatcher, who took her on as a research assistant in 2018, said: "She's a very, very bright person who's very enthusiastic about the research that she's doing."

In high school in Las Vegas, Aguilar-Martinez was on the robotics team, which qualified for the nationals. She began college but dropped out in 2009 because of her father's cancer and her lack of interest in premed bio classes.

The family struggled, and Aguilar-Martinez thought it would help if she found a job elsewhere and sent money home. She was a tour guide and operator of a rooftop Ferris wheel at a St. Louis museum. Outside Athens, Georgia, she processed buckskins.

In 2009, she decided to return home and spent the next five months traversing a handful of states, hitchhiking, riding freight trains and sleeping under bridges. The atmosphere featured "a lot of drinking and people playing musical instruments, but I realized I wanted more."

It would take her a while to get there.

She lived with her parents in Las Vegas as her father's health declined. "Sometimes I wasn't sure where I'd be staying that night."

Aguilar-Martinez worked at an auto parts store, relishing the science that lurked under the hood. "Catalytic converters have all of these

precious metals in them because they catalyze reactions to make the exhaust safer for the environment."

She met and married Alex Launi, a submarine electronics technician in the Navy who will receive his master's in computer science from ODU in May. After he was stationed in Norfolk, she enrolled at ODU in the summer of 2017 and her focus shifted to chemistry.

As an undergraduate assistant in Hatcher's lab, she has worked on a project assessing the effect of sunlight on a product derived from lignin, an organic material found in plants. The results could sharpen scientists' understanding of the carbon cycle.

She received an Undergraduate Research and Creativity Grant from ODU's Perry Honors College, and her grade point average entering the spring semester was 3.92. Her potential to become a great researcher, Hatcher said, is "very high."

Aguilar-Martinez, the first in her family to get a bachelor's degree, hopes to be a professor. "I want to work with underrepresented groups. I can relate to them and understand their struggles."

Heinicke (from left) playing with ODU and the Washington Football Team and (below) turning into Big Blue to help sell season tickets.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
ODU SPORTS, WASHINGTON
FOOTBALL TEAM AND
HARRY MINIUM



Heinicke triumphs

BY HARRY MINIUM '77

In early December, Taylor Heinicke was working out with his trainer and tossing footballs to high school receivers in his hometown of Atlanta, waiting with little hope for the NFL to call.

His off-the-field pursuit seemed a surer bet: Finishing exams for four online classes he was taking to get closer to his undergraduate applied mathematics degree.

On the field, his prospects looked bleak. The former Old Dominion University quarterback was 27. He'd been cut by four NFL teams and hadn't played a pro game in two years.

"There were a couple of times when I said, 'I don't feel like working out today,'" Heinicke recalled. But he kept at it because his sister, Lauren, mom, Diane, and stepdad, Mike, urged him not to give up.

On Dec. 8, out of the blue, Heinicke heard from the Washington Football Team, which signed him as a "quarantine" quarterback, meaning he was there in case someone got sick or injured.

Then, defying the probabilities in every statistics textbook, came his triumphant late-December game against Tampa Bay, in which Heinicke became a national celebrity of sorts. In February, he signed a two-year deal with Washington that could earn him nearly \$9 million over the next two years.

Heinicke completed his academic drive, too.

He crammed in the locker room in Washington and took two of the four finals, getting an A and B. After the season, with his professors' approval, he took the other two exams, scoring a B and C-plus.

Heinicke praised his professors' flexibility.

"They worked with me throughout the process, and I appreciate that," he said.

"Coming back and studying for the exams after being off a month and a half was pretty tough."

Speaking of tough, these were the classes Heinicke recently completed: Mathematics in Nature, Number Theory and Discrete Mathematics, Applied Numerical Methods and Partial Differential Equations.

"The faculty said he's been very diligent and very involved in the courses," said





on and off the field

Gordon Melrose, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. “They wish there were more like him. He was always asking questions on homework and assignments. He really knew how to stay on task.”

Heinicke had hoped to take two more classes for his degree, but his revived NFL career forced him to push that to the spring of 2022.

“Getting my degree is a big deal to me,” he said. “It’s been hanging over my head for so long. Knowing I only have two classes left takes a huge weight off my shoulders.”

Heinicke is the most decorated player in ODU history. He passed for 14,959 yards, the sixth most ever by a Division I quarterback, and as a sophomore won the Walter Payton Award, the equivalent of the Heisman Trophy for the Football Championship Subdivision.

He completed 55 of 79 passes for 730 yards in 2012 against New Hampshire, then a Division I record. He took ODU to the FCS playoffs, and the Monarchs finished among the Top Ten in each of his first two seasons.

Yet it wasn’t until Dec. 27, when Washington lined up against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in a first-round playoff game, that he finally looked like the NFL version of the quarterback who played at ODU.

Heinicke had signed with the Minnesota Vikings as a free agent in 2015 but was cut after his second season. He was later signed and then again cut by Carolina, New England and Houston.

In December, he faced Tom Brady, considered by many the best quarterback in NFL history. One ESPN prognosticator called it the “biggest mismatch” in NFL history.

But Heinicke stunned the national TV audience of nearly 23 million, completing 26 of 44 passes for 306 yards and a touchdown and running for 46 more yards and another touchdown. Tampa Bay won, 31-23, but Heinicke had earned himself a place in the NFL.

Raw stats don’t tell the whole story.

Heinicke skillfully checked off calls at the line, threw with deft accuracy and left frustrated blitzers in the dust with the speed and moves he displayed at ODU.

He capped a 47-yard third-quarter touchdown drive with a 4-yard run in which he went airborne at the 4 and, as five defenders descended upon him, dove across the left pylon.

“Bro what!?!?!?” tweeted Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

In the process, Heinicke dislocated an AC joint when he hit the turf or, in medical terms, separated his clavicle (collarbone) from the scapula (shoulder blade).

“It hurt like hell, but so what?” Heinicke said. “I was thinking, ‘This is my chance, this is the chance I’ve waited my entire life for.’”

His contract guarantees him a \$1 million salary for 2021 and \$1.5 million for 2022, as well as a \$1 million signing bonus. “I finally feel a sense of security,” he said.

He’s always felt a sense of loyalty to his alma mater, which is why when football coach Ricky Rahne reached out to him shortly after Rahne was hired, Heinicke offered to do anything he could to help.

Athletic Director Wood Selig cashed in on that promise, asking Heinicke to shoot TV ads in March at S.B. Ballard Stadium to help sell season tickets.

Heinicke will appear dressed as Big Blue, ODU’s mascot. His message? “Bring Back the Roar.”

In an interview, he said: “We have a great coaching staff now, but we need our fans to embrace Ricky Rahne’s teams like they embraced us.”

He wants it so much that he wore the Big Blue outfit for nearly three hours for the shoot. “Anything to help ODU,” he said.

Rahne said, “He didn’t have to come all the way here to do this. But he did. And that’s pretty awesome.”

Harry Minium ’77 is senior executive writer at Old Dominion University.

Volleyball team sets a strong first season

BY HARRY MINIUM '77

It took nine years, but when Old Dominion University began playing women's volleyball in January, the Monarchs proved it was worth the wait.

With nine freshmen, a sophomore, two juniors and a graduate student, Coach Fred Chao's team debuted with a 3-0 upset victory over George Mason and won seven of its first 11 matches. However, most of its toughest competitors came late in the season, and the Monarchs finished 7-11.

Even so, "It was an amazing first season," President John R. Broderick said. "When we hired Fred, we knew he was the right person to help begin volleyball. But he exceeded all expectations."

ODU announced in 2012 that it would add volleyball, a popular sport in Hampton Roads and an opportunity boost for female athletes. It could have been played at Chartway Arena, but the president and Athletic Director Wood Selig wanted it to have its own facility, where practice, training and locker facilities were centrally located.

To get there, the University raised \$8.5 million from private donors to build the Mitchum Basketball Performance Center, allowing the men's and women's basketball teams to leave their practice gym in the Jim

Jarrett Athletic Administration Building. ODU then invested \$3.1 million to turn the gym into a 900-seat, state-of-the-art volleyball facility – a big recruitment plus for Chao.

He's also recruiting at the highest levels academically. The volleyball team had a composite 3.72 grade-point average in the fall, the best among ODU's athletic teams.

Seven of the 12 undergraduates major in STEM-H – science, technology, engineering, math and health sciences. One athlete, Madeline Rudd, a freshman from Apex, North Carolina, majors in biology and aspires to be a doctor or a physician's assistant.

Rudd said she came to ODU because of Chao and the vision he was offering. "The idea of being able to start a program is just something you can never do again," she said.

Watching Chao coach and the Monarchs play in the final minutes of a close match offers a lesson in patience and poise. Chao is composed and low-key. His players don't appear anxious or stressed out. It's almost eerie how relaxed they seem.

At times, he will tell a joke during timeouts to calm down his players.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ODU SPORTS

"We made a conscious decision to be positive," he said. "We didn't want to be punitive. When we make errors in practice, they are welcome because then you can have a teaching point."

The team has four local players, two from Italy and others from Argentina, Australia and Russia. The women come from across the world but have grown exceptionally close.

"We love to cook for each other," Rudd said. "That's one of the biggest things we do together."

"And we watch 'The Bachelor' together, too," she added with a laugh.

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

Read about assistant football coach Tony Lucas' rebound from tragedy at www.odu.edu/monarchmag.

FROM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR WOOD SELIG

You can make the roar return

When we open our 2021 home football schedule against Hampton University on Sept. 11, it will have been 651 days since we played at S.B. Ballard Stadium. The pandemic forced Old Dominion University to cancel the 2020 football season.

We know our fans will be eager to return to S.B. Ballard. Many have a pent-up desire to get out and have fun. They've missed the camaraderie of being with other fans as well as the sights, smells and sounds of college football, including the festive tailgating experience.

But first we must spread the word:
It's time to return.

In April we began a media marketing campaign that will resume in August, reminding people that our student-athletes need them to attend our home games.

Former ODU star quarterback Taylor Heinicke agreed to be our spokesman. I can't think of anyone more qualified. Taylor set 32 NCAA records at ODU and won everyone's hearts with his fortitude on the field and his demeanor off the field.

Taylor recently signed an \$8.75 million contract with the Washington Football Team after a sterling starting performance in a narrow NFL playoff defeat to Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, which went on to win the Super Bowl.

Taylor is imploring fans to support Coach Ricky Rahne and the Monarchs the same way they supported him. He is convinced, as I am, that Coach Rahne is on the right path to rebuilding our program.

To encourage fans to return, we're rolling back many ticket prices to what they cost 10 or 12 years ago.

We've reduced prices on more than 4,200 sideline seats, and we're charging as little as \$99 for a season ticket for them. Price should



PHOTO COURTESY OF ODU SPORTS

not be a determining factor as to whether fans come out and enjoy ODU football.

Our marketing motto is "Bring Back the Roar." We want to bring back the roar of the crowd to S.B. Ballard Stadium. However, that commitment applies to every athletic team on our campus.

We all suffered during the pandemic. Our players had to form "bubbles," in which they gave up their social lives and stopped going out in public. Many underwent three tests per week for months to be cleared to play each day.

Those who played did so in front of only a handful of fans. It was frustrating for our coaches, athletes and devoted fans, who are among the best in college athletics.

We intend to "bring back the roar" for all our teams in 2021-22.

We need your help. Please buy tickets and attend our events. Be visible supporters. It's going to take time, but with your help, we can all bring back the roar to ODU athletics next season. See you soon.

Selig (right) with ODU President John R. Broderick and Coach Ricky Rahne.

*For more
information
on buying
football season
tickets, go to
YnotTix.com*

FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Dear Fellow Monarchs,

Over the past eight years, I have had the pleasure of being intricately involved in ODU's Alumni Association. For the past two years, with great pride and enthusiasm, I have been president, serving more than 150,000 Monarchs worldwide. As my reign comes to an end, I reflect on how hugely different this past year has been.



As avid ODAF members and sportsters, like many of you, my family and I have missed ODU football and the camaraderie and competition that accompany the sport. Tailgating has become a part of the Monarch culture, and it was immensely missed in 2020. While I understand the University's position to protect the safety and health of students, faculty, staff and alumni, we excitedly await the return of sports.

The pandemic also impacted the start of the ODU basketball season. As restrictions were relaxed, my husband, Jim, and I delighted in the opportunity to attend a few home games at Chartway Arena. Cheering for the team was a highlight for us during this difficult time. Witnessing the students' strength and resilience was an honor.

One of my favorite times of the year is commencement. With a family tradition of attending ODU and the many events and activities that occur on- and off-campus during this time, I have a tremendous appreciation for the impact the University has on our students, their families and the region. Seeing the newest graduates walk across Kaufman Mall into Chartway Arena always brings my heart joy. Our traditional ceremonies were canceled this past year, and our students were not able to celebrate in their caps and gowns. This tradition is an important one to all who are involved, and I look forward to it resuming.

Although this has been an unprecedented year, ODU has been resilient and forward-thinking on all levels. A round of applause is due the faculty and staff for engaging students and alumni virtually. As we look to the future, I am excited about the possibilities of reconnecting with the Monarch family. As always, thank you for your dedicated support of our association, and I wish you the very best in the year to come. Go Monarchs!

Jennifer Keenan '88
President, Alumni Association

1980s

Jane Ferrara '82 was hired in January 2020 as executive director for the Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC) in Richmond. LISC is a national community organization that invests in programs and policies to grow local jobs, business and housing. Ferrara is former senior deputy director for economic development in Richmond.

David A. Saunders '84, president and founder of Summit Association Management Group in Vienna, Va., was appointed last July as executive director of the American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators. AARMR is



a nonprofit business association of 55 state government agencies that regulates the industry of mortgage loan originators, brokers and servicers.

Pamela Raley '85 has been promoted to senior vice president for revenue and client management by Beacon Healthcare Systems. She is based in the Baltimore-Washington metro area.

Mark Stefanik (M.S.Ed. '85) received an excused absence when the Tipp City, Ohio, board of education voted to hire him as superintendent for Tipp City Schools last March. Stefanik was still on the job handling the Currituck County (N.C.) Schools' response to the pandemic. Not to worry — Stefanik was marked "present" when his new position began Aug. 1.

Michael Carraway '86 was promoted in April 2020 from project manager to vice president and manager of Tidewater operations for Waco Inc., a contractor with headquarters in Sandston, Va., that specializes in asbestos abatement and environmental remediation.

Thomas McGeachy '86 was named principal of Nags Head Elementary School in Dare County, N.C., in September. McGeachy chose education as a second career after retiring from the U.S. Army.

Robert M. "Bob" Tata (M.B.A. '86), former Board of Visitors member (2012-19) and Hunton Andrews Kurth Norfolk managing partner, was honored three times in recent months for his work. He was named to Virginia Business magazine's inaugural 2020 "Power List" as one of the commonwealth's

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

top 500 business leaders, and recognized by Best Lawyers as 2020 Lawyer of the Year (Norfolk) for Intellectual Property and the 2021 Lawyer of the Year (Norfolk) for Trade Secrets Law.

Rob Davenport '89 was hired to lead the Division of Marketing and Development for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in December. The division promotes economic development for Virginia's agricultural sector, the state's largest private industry. Think "Virginia Grown."

Jere Richardson '89 has been hired as chief commercial officer for Veson Nautical, to lead its global sales and marketing. Veson furnishes software to more than 200 maritime organizations to manage 50,000 voyages and \$25 billion in worldwide trade each year.

1990s

M. Susan Guyer (M.S. '90) has been named dean of the School of Physical Education, Performance and Sport Leadership for Springfield College in Massachusetts after serving as interim dean since January 2020. A faculty member at the college since 2003, she has been recognized with national honors from the athletic training profession and by the Springfield City Council for community health initiatives.

Margaret McManus (M.S. '91, Ph.D. '96) was chosen by colleagues last February to serve as chair of the Department of Oceanography within the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Her research group studies links between marine ecosystems and coastal oceanography.

Martha Early '93 (Ph.D. '07) received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Virginia chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in April 2019 for teaching and service to the field of social work. She is an assistant professor in family and community medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School and an adjunct faculty member at East Carolina University, and

additionally runs a private practice in Washington, N.C.

Early reports that her husband, **Richard '68**, and daughters **Ellen ('98, M.U.S. '02)** and **Mary Paige (M.B.A. '00)** also are proud Monarchs.

James F. Ross '93, a retired Navy chief and longtime runner, found his own cure for pandemic "cabin fever" in 2020. When the gyms closed, Ross



took to the streets with 5-kilometer runs three mornings a week in his Great Bridge neighborhood. His original goal was 100 5Ks – which he achieved Sept. 27. His next goal was to complete 406 miles, the distance between his Chesapeake home and Heinz Field, home of his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers. He crossed that milestone on Dec. 7, or Pearl Harbor Day, another significant date in Naval history.

Donnie R. Tuck (M.P.A. '93) won reelection as mayor of Hampton in 2020. This is his second term, which runs until June 30, 2024.

Brian Devlin '94 has returned to Divaris Real Estate in Virginia Beach to become senior vice president of office leasing and investment sales. His career began at Divaris in 1999.

Terrence McGraw '94 was named president of PC Matic Federal, a new division of PC Matic, a cyber threat prevention software company. He spent 27 years in cyber operations for the U.S. Army and in private industry before taking the job last April.

Brent Epps '95 was promoted from assistant director to director of transportation for Chesterfield County in January.

Jason Harris '95, a CPA and financial principal with MLA Companies based in Dayton, Ohio, was appointed



Nine women with Old Dominion connections were named to the 2019 and 2020 Women in Business lists compiled by Inside Business.

Nancy Rogan '80 is the community engagement officer at WHRO Public Media and former special education teacher for Norfolk Public Schools.

Elizabeth Locke (M.S. '91, Ph.D. '08) is director of clinical education in the physical therapy doctoral program at ODU.

Vonda Chappell '92, attorney and member at Kaufman & Canoles, PC, handles estates and trusts, corporate and real estate services in the firm's Chesapeake office.

Michelle S. Butler '96, executive vice president and director of private banking at TowneBank, focuses on community support and partnerships.

Sarah Darrow '06, a content strategist for ODU Distance Learning, explores the rift between media and the American public in her master's program at ODU.

Amanda Lloyd (M.A. '07) is director of the Academy for Nonprofit Excellence at Tidewater Community College, which develops regional workforce career programs.

Nancy Littlefield (D.N.P. '13) is a fourth-generation nurse and executive vice president and chief nursing officer for Riverside Health System.

Yvonne Allmond, a member of the ODU Board of Visitors since 2015, is executive vice president and community financial engagement officer for TowneBank.

Narketta Sparkman-Key is an associate professor and academic affairs director of faculty diversity, inclusion and retention programs at Old Dominion University. Her research focus is adolescent suicide.

The library 'is where I'm supposed to be'

At Old Dominion University, **John Light Jr. '04** found an unexpected peace in the library, where he had a work-study job. "It always felt like home," Light, 42, recalled.

After he graduated, he worked in circulation at the Central Branch in Virginia Beach for seven years. He moved to other jobs in sales and underwriting, first in Savannah, Georgia, and then in Northern Virginia.

One day, Light, his wife, Deidre '05, who runs a senior center in Fairfax County, and their twin sons went to a library in Dale City. "As soon as I walked into that building, I thought, 'This is where I'm supposed to be.' "

Since 2015, he's been a youth services librarian at Potomac Community Library in Woodbridge, where he leads the Story Time and Music in Motion programs. Light – or "Mister John," as he's known – particularly likes reading to babies ("I love looking at their eyes and seeing the emotions").

Since the pandemic, the programs have gone online, allowing one family that moved to Chicago to stay connected, says Light, who received his master's in library science from Syracuse University in 2019.

He's also written three children's books – "The Adventures of Joshua and Pip," "The Adventures of Joshua and Pip: Calvin the Catfish" and "My Mother's Wildest Dreams" – available on Amazon. The first appeared on the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's 2020 Best of the Best Booklist. Joshua and Pip are patterned after his sons, Joshua and Jeremiah, who are now 12. The first book, in fact, came from a made-up story he told them at bedtime.

Light said his books emphasize the values of patience, perseverance and emotional intelligence. There's another reason he wrote them: "I didn't see a lot of regular books with characters that looked like my sons."

He has side businesses in storytelling and genealogy. He has located a long-lost great-aunt and -uncle. But his heart remains in the library. "Every day I get to help somebody," Light says.



- Philip Walzer

chairman of the Virginia market in February. He oversees chief financial officer services to businesses primarily located in Virginia.

Deena C. Brown (M.S.Ed. '97), entrepreneur and former educator, launched Her Executive Presence, LLC, in November, building on goals of a company she founded, The Leadshift Movement. Leadshift helps women assess how they learn, experience, apply and develop (L.E.A.D.) their skills and use that self-awareness to pursue leadership roles.

Shari Hulin Epps (M.A. '97) became director of human resources at Colonna's Shipyard in Norfolk in March 2020. She previously worked in human resources at Sentara Healthcare and Norfolk Southern Corporation.

Annette Tudor (M.S.Ed. '98) was approved unanimously by the Bristol Tennessee Board of Education to become director of schools in April 2020, after serving twice as interim director. She has worked in the Bristol schools for 20 years, starting as a special education teacher.

Radley Ramirez (M.S.Ed. '99) was named Teacher of the Year in February 2020 for the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity's Europe East district. He is a technology instructor at Baumholder Middle High School, in Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany.

2000s

Jason Brown '00, former information technology manager in Huntington Ingalls Industries' shipbuilding division, has been promoted to division vice president and chief information officer. Brown is based in Pascagoula, Miss.

Edward Simmer (M.P.H. '01) was recommended by the board of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to become DHEC director after he retired Dec. 31 as chief medical officer for Tricare Health Plan. Tricare provides care for 9.5 million active duty military service members, retirees and dependents. He earned a master's in epidemiology through the ODU/Eastern Virginia Medical School consortium, a useful degree during the pandemic.

Lee Vartanian (M.S.Ed. '01, Ph.D. '04) relocated to Athens, Ala., to become dean of the College of Education at Athens State

University in July 2020. His background is in social work, early childhood education and urban services.

Frank S. James '03 became director of the city's public works department in Newport News last March. He has worked in the department since 1984; his specialty is stormwater administration and operations.

Virginia Quiambao '04 founded Avid Core, a communications firm in Northern Virginia, last year. The team has built on its experience with homeland security, transportation, education and natural resource projects.

Yvette Stevens (M.E. '04), P.E., has been promoted to director of economic inclusion and community affairs at Gilbane Building Co. in Providence, R.I.

Xerxes Nabong '05, CFP, has expanded his financial services business, Wealth Avenue, to a second location in Scottsdale, Ariz., his home base since April 2020. An escape room enthusiast, the entrepreneur also owns two Escape Room locations in Virginia – and one to come in Scottsdale?

Anna Tunnicliffe Tobias '05, gold medalist in the 2008 Olympics and 2009 ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year, made hometown headlines in February when she was inducted into the Perrysburg, Ohio, athletics hall of fame. A CrossFit athlete, she and Brad Tobias, her husband and coach, own T2 CrossFit in the Pittsburgh area.

Victoria Collins '06 (M.A. '09, Ph.D. '13), associate professor and graduate program coordinator in the School of Justice Studies at Eastern Kentucky University, was named Critical Criminologist of the Year for 2019 by the American Society of Criminology. Critical criminology "involves examining political, economic and social structures that oppress and uphold biases situated in race, class (and) gender," Collins said.

Caleb Hurst (M.E. '06), P.E., in December joined Draper Aden Associates, a site development and infrastructure engineering group, which has offices in Virginia Beach and Newport News.

Desiree Singleton '06 opened Harvest Moon Coffee & Chocolates in her hometown of Tarentum, Pa., last March as the pandemic took hold in the U.S. "It will give a sense of community" and be a gathering place where people can "meet for a few minutes," she

said before opening. And don't we all need coffee and sweets to weather the pandemic?

Kevin P. Amick '07 in April 2020 became director of the Veterans Administration health care facility in Butler, Pa., after several posts with the VA since 2010. VA Butler's staff of 700 serves 25,000 veterans in five nearby counties.

Dorian Newton '07 accepted the Black Engineer of the Year Award in February 2020 from BEYA for corporate promotion of education and leadership at Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries. Newton is technical services director for N3B in Los Alamos, N.M.

Quentin Noreiga (M.B.A. '07) joined supply chain technology and analytics services company Vibronyx in August as director of aerospace and defense after 25 years in the U.S. Army.

Cmdr. Stacy M. Wuthier (M.E.M. '07), in June became commanding officer of one of the two crews aboard the San Diego-based USS Jackson. The Denver, Colo., native earned her commission in 2000.



Carrie Shephard '09, P.E., has been named resident engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation's Charlottesville area, responsible for VDOT operations in Albemarle, Greene and Madison counties.

Shayla Varnado '09 decided it's not as much fun to drink alone, so she began producing Black Girls Wine, a weekly Facebook podcast, three years ago from her Hopewell, Va., home to share her experiences and education about the wine industry. Her Black Girls Wine Society goes a step further, with 60 members in 20 chapters across the country. "I've created a home for Black wine lovers where they can feel comfortable and safe and welcome," Varnado said.



ALUMNI AUTHORS

"I Must Write" by **Mortimer Payne '69** (Create Space). The title of one of Payne's three books sums up his philosophy. The other two, "Sora Tide" and "Chesapeake April," compile poems, stories, photos and drawings to chronicle "the people living in the important place between the Potomac River and the Rappahannock River," he says.

"The Blackhorse in Vietnam: The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia, 1966-1972" by **Don Snedeker (M.A. '83)** (Casemate Publishing). Snedeker writes that the 11th Cavalry proved the value of armored forces in Vietnam, succeeding despite the enemy, terrain and weather -- and the military's own belief that this was an infantryman's war.

"Passion: The Art of Making Love and War" by **Kendal V. Smith (M.A. '97)** (Amazon). Smith, a native and resident of the Bahamas, writes poems described as "breathtaking" by Caribbean Magazine, covering a range of topics from "women to love to spirituality."

"When You Look Like Us" by **Pamela N. Harris '03 (M.S.Ed. '06)** (HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books). Teenager Jayson Murphy begins his own search to find his missing sister, Nicole, believing that "When you look like us – brown skin, brown eyes, black braids or fades – everyone else thinks you're trouble." Harris, a former school counselor, tackles the perception that authorities and the community are slow to respond when Black girls disappear.

"My Mended Heart" by **Micah Dillon '04** (Core Media Group). Dillon, a real estate agent in Franklin, Va., and mother of two, has collected 100 encouraging quotes from journals she wrote as she attempted to heal after her husband died unexpectedly from a heart attack after 13 years of marriage.

"Blank Check, A Novel: What if You Were Asked to Help Reinvent Public Schools" by **Aaron Smith (Ph.D. '08)** (Morgan James). A fictional tale grounded in real-life scenarios doubles as a reality check that American public schools need to be reshaped to prepare students for a career.



A double crescendo for techno composer

Despite the pandemic, last year was harmonious for **David Quang-Minh Nguyen '13**. The music composer won both national and international competitions.

Nguyen's composition "Weight Stranding" won second place in the ASCAP/SEAMUS (Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States) student competition. In addition, Nguyen received second prize in the 13th International Competition of Electroacoustic Composition sponsored by the Foundation Destellos in Argentina.

He is the first music composition alumnus to win a top prize in a national or international competition, said Andrey Kasparov, professor of music.

As a child, Nguyen played violin and, later, piano. Something, though, was missing. "I was performing music, but I felt it wasn't really my own music," he said. So he began composing in 2007.

Nguyen works in his home studio, where, he says, "I have the ability to compose in Surround Sound all the time." Usually, he has a plan or concept before he starts a piece and then immerses himself in a variety of sounds.

"Weight Stranding," he said, was inspired by a dream about a whale being stranded. It's a 13-minute work that took 10 months to complete. "I had to change the ending five different times," Nguyen, 30, said. "I was never satisfied with it."

Last year, Nguyen also won an honorable mention for his work "Adumbrations" in the Concurso Música Viva 2020 Miso Music Portugal.

He expects to receive his doctorate in music from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the summer. After that, he hopes to "take over or start an electronic music program at a university. If my career does not pan out as a professor, I would love to be a sound designer for a motion picture."

When Nguyen isn't composing, he performs Brazilian jiu-jitsu and likes watching foreign films by directors such as Ingmar Bergman, Andrei Tarkovsky and Akira Kurosawa.

Listen to "Weight Stranding" at soundcloud.com/dqncomposer/weight-stranding

— Philip Walzer

2010s

Anna Pillow '10 reconnected to her youth last January when she left New York to become executive director of The Arts Center In Orange (Va.). Pillow took pottery classes at the center during summer visits with her grandmother, Frances Lea, who has since died. She joins her mother, Katherine Lea, who is Orange's town attorney.

J. Lee Brown

(Ph.D. '12) was promoted to interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Fayetteville State University in August. Among his previous roles at the North Carolina school were dean of the Broadwell College of Business and Economics and faculty member since 2011.



The scouting report on **Charles Walls '12 (M.P.A. '19)** shows that in May 2020, he was hired away from the Green Bay Packers after seven seasons to become a national scout for the Cleveland Browns.

Dave Whanger (M.B.A. '12) was named director of marine operations for Charleston (S.C.) Harbor Tours and Events in February 2020.

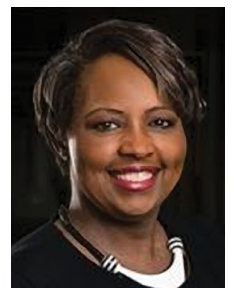
Erin Baucom '14

was appointed in April 2020 as a state representative for the Northwest Archivists' group. Baucom is a digital archivist for the archives and special collections of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library at the University of Montana – Missoula.



Shelly Buck (D.N.P. '14)

was named president of Riddle Hospital in Media, Pa., a Main Line Health hospital in the Philadelphia area, in September 2019. Her previous health care leadership included COO and chief nursing officer at Wellspan York Hospital and roles at Bon Secours Health System.





Mark Levenstein '14 made connections through the study abroad program and Frank Reidy Research Center for Bioelectronics that led to a Fulbright scholarship and graduate degrees at the University of

Leeds, England. His research has improved coral reef survival and pharmaceuticals production and led to a £1.1 million national grant to study X-ray diffraction. His current job as permanent scientist with the French National Laboratory, CEA Saclay, just outside Paris, focuses on low-carbon materials used in the health care and construction industries.

Cyrus Entezam '16, a graphic designer and lead videographer of MCR Design Group, was named to the Top 20 Under 40 list of the Business Journal in Scranton, Pa., in December.

Cliff Ogburn (M.P.A. '16) moved just up the beach highway in May 2020 when the Southern Shores Town Council hired him as town manager. For the previous 12 years, Ogburn was town manager in Nags Head, 15 miles to the south.

Brian Klippel (M.S.Ed. '17), a former music educator, was appointed principal at Goshen Post Elementary School in Loudoun County last June.

Margaret Seymour (Ph.D. '18) won a veterans' fellowship in May 2020 from the U.S. Marine Corps to pursue graduate studies at the University of Missouri. The former Marine intelligence officer completed three overseas tours and raised \$100,000 for veterans, Gold Star families and special needs athletes in a run across the United States. She researches soft power approaches to combat terrorism.

Abigail Schwartz (M.S.N. '19), pediatric nurse practitioner, joined RVABaby in Richmond in February. RVABaby makes house calls, providing medical care for newborns in the safety and comfort of their families' homes.

Her principal focus is giving back

For **Janeen Perry-Campbell '02 (Ph.D. '20)**, each new job doubles as a reunion. In 2019, she became assistant principal at Cradock Middle School in Portsmouth, which she had attended 30 years before.

Last year, Perry-Campbell was promoted to principal of Brighton Elementary School. She went there, too.

"Just to know that I am principal of the school I attended – it feels like I'm giving back," said Perry-Campbell, 43, who received her doctorate in curriculum and instruction last December. "Everything I do is personal."

Perry-Campbell, who previously worked at middle schools, said, "In elementary school, they're still innocent. They love learning." Another transition was more challenging: the switch to all-virtual classes in mid-March of 2020.

"I've never met my staff fully," Perry-Campbell said late last year. But she's tried to connect with employees and students, delivering gifts to staff members and organizing an in-person holiday party for students. She even visited one seen sleeping on Zoom. "I went to her house and said, 'Let's get up and have class today.'"

Perry-Campbell's dissertation focused on stereotypes holding back African American girls and how to overcome them. She received a fellowship from the Southern Regional Education Board and won Old Dominion's 3-Minute Thesis Competition, which came with a \$1,000 award, in 2019.

In her 3-minute speech, titled "Black Girls in 3D," she spoke about shifting the perception of African American girls from



"disruptive, defiant and disrespectful" to "determined, driven and destined for greatness." Teachers and others shouldn't make assumptions about girls based on their names, their looks or what some consider their "sassy attitudes," she said.

She reinforced that point in a development program for Brighton's staff, using as a metaphor the 8 minutes and 46 seconds a Minneapolis officer held his knee on George Floyd's neck. "In 8 minutes and 46 seconds, you can turn students off education," she said. "Equity, diversity and inclusion are not just buzzwords. They're really needed in the world we live in."

— Philip Walzer

WILKIE W. CHAFFIN '65, a professor emeritus of information systems and decision sciences, died on Nov. 25. Chaffin, 78, taught at the University from 1975 until 1997.

In retirement, Chaffin volunteered with the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

CHARLIE HARRISON COOKE, professor emeritus of mathematics and sciences, died Jan. 27. He was 84.

Cooke taught applied mathematics at ODU from 1969 to 2007. "Charlie was incredibly curious and full of wonder," said Gordon Melrose, chair of the department. "Charlie – never Charles – was a big ole country boy from North Carolina and never tried to hide it."

GARY COPELAND, a professor emeritus of physics, died on Oct. 23. Copeland, 80, taught at ODU from 1971 to 2008 and received the A. Rufus Tonelson Faculty Award in 2006.

Gail Dodge, dean of the College of Sciences, called Copeland "a fantastic teacher who put the needs of students first and foremost." He also advocated for LGBTQ rights.

DAVID R. HAGER, who served as acting provost five times during his nearly 40-year career at the University, died on Dec. 9 at the age of 79.

"David was a great role model and a leader of the highest level," ODU President John R. Broderick said.

From 1969 to 2008, his positions included chair of the political science department, dean of graduate studies and associate vice president for academic affairs.

S. PHILIP HINES JR., 96, associate professor emeritus of English, died on Oct. 7. Hines taught at Old Dominion from 1965 to 1992.

Janis Krebs Smith, University Distinguished Teacher, described him as "approachable and courtly." As neighbors, they shared "family meals, adventures in volunteering and, perhaps most importantly, fabulous Scrabble games."

ROBERT LEE KERNELL, a physics professor from 1968 to 1994, died on Jan. 22. He was 91. He was the first ODU faculty member to

be named, in 1989, Virginia Professor of the Year by CASE and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Kernell did research for NASA on the effects of space radiation.

CHENG YANG LIN, a professor of engineering technology, died on Aug. 1. He was 68. Lin, who was at ODU for 31 years, specialized in automation, controls and robotics.

"He was a great colleague and an even better friend," said former student Tony Dean, now assistant dean for research at the Batten College of Engineering and Technology.

GRIFFITH "GRIF" MCREE JR., associate professor emeritus of electrical engineering and former chair of the University Senate, died on Dec. 1. He was 86.

McRee, who taught at ODU from 1970 to 1999, worked on NASA's Viking One Mars lander team.

Robert Ash, Eminent Scholar of mechanical and aerospace engineering, said, "He brought the best of a military background: Prompt response to requests for information. Observe the academic hierarchy. Just get it done."

SID ROBERTS, a professor emeritus of mechanical engineering who helped found the Ph.D. program, died Nov. 16. Roberts, who was at ODU from 1965 to 2000, also was chair of the Faculty Senate.

"Sid helped orient our budding engineering college to strive toward teaching and research quality levels that could serve the needs of our local industries," Ash said.

BARBARA TAYLOR, who taught sociology from 1972 to 1978, died on Oct. 10. She was 88.

Taylor, then known as Barbara Khandelwal, received strong teaching evaluations and "was available to her students day or night," her obituary said. The American Council on Education named her an "extraordinary woman" in 2001.

NANCY WADE, who taught introductory biology to thousands of undergraduates, died on Jan. 20. Wade, 80, an associate professor emerita of biological sciences, was at ODU from 1964 until 2007.

Her class wasn't an easy A. Students found her "intimidating or inspirational," said Lytton John Musselman, Mary Payne Hogan Distinguished Professor of Botany. But "she taught them for the first time how to really study."

JOHN WEESE, dean of ODU's School of Engineering from 1974 to 1983, died on July 21. He was 87.

Weese reached out to institutions such as the Navy and NASA, and the size of the faculty and student body grew. "He also co-authored one of the most widely used undergraduate solid mechanics textbooks," Ash said.

Notables in Athletics

TREVOR ADAIR, assistant men's soccer coach from 2010 to 2014, died on Oct. 27 at the age of 60. He was also head coach at Brown and Clemson universities and was named Ivy League Coach of the Year.

SONNY ALLEN, who transformed men's basketball at ODU, died Sept. 11 at the age of 84. As head coach from 1965 to 1975, he led ODU to six Division II tournaments, winning in 1975. More important, he integrated not only Old Dominion's team, but Virginia college athletics.

"He was ahead of his time at being inclusive," ODU Athletic Director Wood Selig said.

Former baseball coach **MARK NEWMAN** died Sept. 12 at the age of 71. From 1981 to 1989, he compiled a 321-167-3 record. He left ODU to join the New York Yankees, where he rose to senior vice president of baseball operations.

"Mark was a great teacher of the game of baseball and developed outstanding young men of impeccable character," Selig said.

Received Feb. 15 – Aug. 31, 2020

Lucy J. Oldfield '39 of Virginia Beach, 7/24/20

L. Chappell Toomer '42 of Oak Ridge, Tenn., 3/17/20

John H. Carter Jr. '43 of Norfolk, 3/10/20

Nancy Outland Chandler '43 of Norfolk, 3/27/20

Barbara M. Leard '46 of Norfolk, 1/16/20

Wong G.C. Din '47 of Norfolk, 8/12/20

John L. Lilly '48 of Williamsburg, 5/15/20

Alfred E. Ablouness '49 of Norfolk, 5/6/20

Daisy J. Boyd '49 of Eagle Rock, Va., 5/13/20

Allen J. Gordon '49 of Virginia Beach, 6/9/20

Jack M. Hill Sr. '49 of Norfolk, 8/8/20

Robert N. McLellon '49 of Norfolk, 2/13/20

Marvin E. Stokely '49 of Elizabeth City, N.C., 5/16/20

Frank L. Leonard Jr. '50 of Norfolk, 4/4/20

Cecilia T. Hickerson '51 of Norfolk, 8/18/20

Jane B. Johnson '51 of Williamsburg, 4/22/20

Cilda K. Meltzer '51 of Norfolk, 4/6/20

Evelyn Y. Randolph '53 of Norfolk, 6/26/20

Evon R. Rice '53 of Virginia Beach, 8/14/20

Frances D. McCraw '55 of Norfolk, 8/12/20

Betty K. Torkelson '55 of Harrisonburg, Va., 2/12/20

Robert M. Latimer '56 (M.S.Ed. '70) of Norfolk, 8/15/20

Donald R. Norris '56 of Norfolk, 2/15/20

Charles E. Garrison '57 of Chesapeake, 6/5/20

David W. Gregory Jr. '57 (M.E. '70) of Virginia Beach, 8/14/20

Carter S. Sullivan '57 of Virginia Beach, 2/20/20

Mahlon B. Parker Jr. '58 of Portsmouth, 3/28/20

Muriel C. Perry '58 of Norfolk, 4/7/20

F. Jane Wallace '58 (M.S.Ed. '74) of Norfolk, 2/15/20

J. Wylie French '59 (C.A.S. '74) of Virginia Beach, 8/16/20

Anthony Long '59 of Newport News, 2/23/20

E. Lawrence Beach '60 of Virginia Beach, 8/15/20

James M. Oglesby '60 of Virginia Beach, 8/17/20

Craig D. Rhodes Sr. '60 of Daphne, Ala., 6/15/20

Joseph B. Vestal '60 of Crystal Lake, Ill., 7/14/20

Ronald L. Levy '61 of Norfolk, 5/15/20

George G. Steinmetz '61 of Virginia Beach and Hampton, 5/21/20

Florence P. Blankenship '62 (M.S.Ed. '84) of Virginia Beach, 7/18/20

Lawrence H. Coleman '62 of Virginia Beach, 4/27/20

Col. Te-Ata Renee Hery, USA (Ret) '62 (M.S.Ed. '72) of Williamsburg, 6/4/20

James R. Novelli '62 (M.B.A. '74) of Virginia Beach, 3/16/20

Joan N. Redfearn '62 of Virginia Beach, 4/8/20

Sally G. Stalls '63 of Williamston, N.C., 6/22/20

Evelyn F. Wills '63 of Norfolk, 8/23/20

She mixed piety with belly dancing

DORIS FRIEDMAN '76

could turn strangers into friends. But “her best friend was God,” said her oldest daughter, Lorie Friedman. “She talked to God every morning.” So it was fitting that she died on Sept. 27, the night of Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year, after listening to prayers from her hospice bed. She was 94.



Friedman and her husband of nearly 60 years, Sonny, were among the founders of Temple Israel in Norfolk in 1954. “She was a lioness about her religion,” her daughter said.

That’s not all she was passionate about. She was, her obituary said, “a special force of nature.”

Friedman swam regularly, and as recently as February 2020, her youngest daughter, Abbie Korman, said. “My mom was addicted to swimming,” Lorie Friedman said. “It made her strong. It was her anti-depressant.”

She was a demon in Scrabble, and she took up belly dancing at 80. “She liked to dance,” said her middle daughter, Jodie Frieden, “and she didn’t have a partner anymore” after Sonny’s death in 2004.

Frieden remembers attending “lots of rehearsals and lots of recitals,” including at Harrison Opera House. “Plus, there was a lot of hula going on.”

When asked about Friedman’s volunteer activities, her daughter Abbie said: “She was her own organization.” Korman recalled, for instance, Friedman giving rides to a blind woman she had befriended.

Friedman, who married at 19, attended ODU in her 40s to get a bachelor’s degree in sociology. She later earned a master’s in social work from Norfolk State. Her jobs included substitute teaching, selling real estate, leading the senior citizens group at the Jewish Community Center and working as a social worker at Beth Sholom Home.

At Friedman’s funeral, her granddaughter Laura Gibbons said: “She was as fearless as she was fabulous.”

— Philip Walzer

Lt. Cmdr. Joseph H. Fisher, USN (Ret) '64 of Coral Gables, Fla., 3/2/20

Charles R. Jones '64 of Norfolk, 3/31/20

Norma J. Pell '64 of Elizabeth City, N.C., 6/6/20

Clay Thompson (M.S.Ed. '64) of Phoenix, Ariz., 7/21/20

James W. Boyd Jr. '65 of Williamsburg, 4/2/20

Martha B. Pulley '65 of Richmond, 8/4/20

Beverly K. Credle '66 of Hampton, 6/2/20

Nelson P. Tibbitt Jr. '66 of Carroll County, Va., 6/4/20

E. Carlton Bowyer (M.S.Ed. '67, C.A.S. '71, Ph.D. '91) of Virginia Beach, 5/23/20

Capt. Ernest H. Joy II, USN (Ret) '67 of Viera, Fla., 7/30/20

Judith E. Patton '67 of Lakewood Ranch, Fla., 5/30/20

Ava P. Campbell '68 of Fayetteville, N.C., 3/31/20

Jacqueline M. Caprio '68 of San Diego, Calif., 3/5/20

Phyllis C. Dunn '68 of Marionville, Va., 2/28/20

Karen W. Grass '68 (M.S.Ed. '90) of Williamsburg, 3/8/20

Barbara H. King '68 (M.S.Ed. '74) of Smithfield, Va., 4/1/20

Julia F. Morgan '68 of Arlington, Va., 5/6/20

Felice A. Saks (M.A. '68) of Norfolk, 6/8/20

Ginny B. Asimos '69 of Suffolk, 5/1/20

J. David Dearing (M.E. '69) of Newport News, 8/11/20

Joseph F. Filipowski '69 of Norfolk, 6/8/20

Patricia A. Hagen '69 of Kill Devil Hills, N.C., 4/6/20

Sharon C. Holt '69 (M.S.Ed. '81) of Norfolk, 6/15/20

Carolyn Sands '69 (M.S.Ed. '77) of Norfolk, 6/7/20

John H. Stelmack '69 of Littleton, N.C., 4/14/20

Shirley L. Grether '70 of Central Point, Ore., 4/20/20

Anne "Nancy" C. McCarthy '70 (M.S.Ed. '72) of Marblehead, Mass., 3/14/20

Mitchell I. Peerless '70 of Providence, R.I., 3/6/20

Ann G. Reynolds '70 (M.S.Ed. '76) of Hampton, 8/1/20

Lillie J. Woodard '70 of Spring Hope, N.C., and Hampton, 7/11/20

Lt. Cmdr. Raymond W. Ashbacher, USN (Ret) '71 (M.S.Ed. '77) of Virginia Beach, 5/10/20

Shirley F. Berman '71 of Norfolk, 7/14/20

Robert W. Cooper III '71 of Chesapeake, 6/6/20

Margaret C. Heim '71 of Virginia Beach, 3/9/20

Mark S. Kamleiter '71 of Hudson, Fla., and Paris, France, 3/8/20

Cornelius J. Keim III '71 of Harrisburg, Pa., 5/10/20

S. Rudene Kennedy (M.S.Ed. '71) of Beulaville, N.C., 5/1/20

Mamie Martin Ross (M.S.Ed. '71) of Suffolk, 5/15/20

Shirley P. Vining '71 of Williamsburg, 4/8/20

Norman F. Benwitz Jr. '72 (M.S.Ed. '75) of Virginia Beach, 6/9/20

Michael L. Blythe '72 of Smithfield, 3/5/20

Shelba R. DeJesus '72 of Virginia Beach, 5/15/20

Anne H. Kelley '72 of Virginia Beach, 8/15/20

'A funny, silly dad' known for his flowers

JAY TURPIN JR. '76 was known for his big, embracing personality and his expertise with flowers. But his closest friends knew of another claim to distinction: He was Big Blue as a student.

"He would mess with his friends and smack them in the face with his tail," said his older daughter, Bailey.

Turpin, who died on Oct. 28 at the age of 66, never lost that penchant for fun.

"He was a big goofball," his younger daughter, Jessie, said. "All my friends thought he was a funny, silly dad." When they'd watch scary movies, "he'd put on his creepy zombie mask, sneak outside and knock on the windows very loud."

Turpin, who majored in business, took over his family's store, Turpin's Florist in Norfolk, shortly after he graduated. "He just had a passion for flowers," said his wife, Cathy, who began dating Turpin when she was a driver for the shop and married him in 1985. "His father did it before him, and his grandmother before him."

The store had established a strong reputation – regular customers included ODU, the Virginia Beach Amphitheater and Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home – and Turpin's personality helped. "People liked talking to him," Cathy said.

Turpin's Florist closed in December 2014. "It broke his heart," said Cathy, who had become manager of the store. "The internet really hurt us; we just ran out of money."

For a while, he worked as a middleman for a wholesaler. In 2018, he opened Julian's Flowers, which he operated from his home. (Julian was both his and his father's first name.) "I could tell how happy he was doing flowers again," Jessie said.

Bailey said: "It was insane how many people sent cards or came to the house and said, 'I've known him since second grade.' He made every person feel special and important. That's why people gravitated to him."

And the family tradition continues. Cathy has taken over Julian's Flowers, which had a busy holiday season.

— Philip Walzer



He was good with plumbing, vegetables and caring for people

DUDNAUTH RAMSAWH '87 was frustrated two years ago when he had to replace his water heater. It wasn't the cost or the hassle that bothered him. It was the fact that he couldn't install it himself because of insurance rules.

Ramsawh, who died Aug. 22 at the age of 66, did everything around the house in Chesapeake.

"He built our deck, our shed, our fence," said his younger daughter, Renatta Ramsawh '02, '07. "He did the plumbing and all the electrical work."

And his ample garden supplied the neighborhood with squash, tomatoes and strawberries. "He grew so much stuff back there," Renatta said. "He grew peppers that you can only grow in Guyana."

That's where Ramsawh and his wife, Geneva, grew up. They and their two daughters, Renatta and Simone '01, moved to the United States in 1983.

When he was at ODU, he took his daughters to campus often. "He did that on purpose," Renatta said, "to let us get used to college. 'That is what you're going to do.' He really did enjoy his time at ODU."

Ramsawh spent 24 years with Virginia's Department of Corrections as a cognitive behavioral therapist before retiring in 2017. Most of that time, he worked at St. Brides and Indian Creek correctional centers, both in Chesapeake. He rarely talked about work, his daughter said. "He came home, and he left it there."

But he was proud of modernizing Indian Creek's nonviolent first offenders program "to fit the needs of current 18- to 25-year-olds," said Renatta, who works as a health educator for the state.

Ramsawh's personality made him well-suited for the job. "He was a very smart and patient person," she said. "Raising my sister and me, he was mild-mannered. He didn't yell much; he never cursed. He was the cuddly type."

— Philip Walzer



Cheryl H. McIvor '72 of Norfolk, 4/28/20

James F. Qualls '72 of North Chesterfield, Va., 6/27/20

Carl J. Rivenbark Jr. '72 of Leesburg, Fla., 7/5/20

Marshall P. Simpson '72 of Portsmouth, 5/21/20

Aldene S. Whichard '72 of Kilmarnock, Va., 4/23/20

June L. Yost '72 of Flat Rock, N.C., 5/26/20

Elizabeth L. Andrews '73 (M.S.Ed. '76) of Richmond, Va., 6/29/20

Linda B. Armstrong '73 of Norfolk, 8/15/20

Paul J. Baglio '73 of Damascus, Va., 4/24/20

James C. Bright '73 of Warsaw, Va., 6/19/20

Bruce W. Edwards '73 (M.P.A. '83) of Virginia Beach, 8/22/20

James A. Felton '73 of Collegeville, Pa., 7/9/20

Danny S. Glover '73 of Suffolk, 3/20/20

James D. Saunders, Chief Radioman, USN (Ret) '73 of Norfolk, 6/2/20

Michael J. Watts '73 of Elizabeth City, N.C., 3/7/20

James J. Barba '74 of Virginia Beach, 8/9/20

William J. Self '74 of Indian Land, S.C., 8/6/20

Jack M. White (M.U.S. '74) of Pennington, N.J., 4/26/20

Shirley S. Winstead (M.S.Ed. '74) of Chesapeake, 8/9/20

Lt. Cmdr. Willis H. Alexander Jr., USN (Ret) '75 (M.S.Ed. '77) of Virginia Beach, 8/2/20

Buford L. Davis (M.B.A. '75) of Pinehurst, N.C., 4/10/20

Cindy B. Dillon '75 of Norfolk, 8/13/20

Virginia E. Fick '75 (M.A. '83) of Lakeland, Fla., 6/23/20

Shelley B. Fox '75 of Virginia Beach, 5/11/20

Thomas Gallagher '75 of Virginia Beach, 5/10/20

Bruce M. Henley '75 of Hammondsport, N.Y., 3/23/20

Harry E. Keys, USN (Ret) '75 of Williamsburg, 8/7/20

Lawrence R. Reid Jr., USN (Ret) (M.B.A. '75) of Gainesville, Fla., 4/27/20

Charles V. Reilly '75 of Charleston, W.Va., 2/27/20

Augustus V. Sykes '75 of Norfolk, 5/19/20

Davis B. Wright '75 of Lanexa, Va., 8/24/19

James B. Dischinger Jr. '76 of Picayune, Miss., 5/17/20

David G. Dobbs '76 of Chesterfield, Va., 5/4/20

Raymond L. Loftin Jr. '76 of Norfolk, 3/2/20

Cinda L. Morgan '76 of Staunton, Va., 3/17/20

Christopher F. Pate '76 (M.P.A. '86) of Virginia Beach, 5/9/20

G. Conoly Phillips (M.B.A. '76) of Norfolk, 4/22/20

Frederick C. Roedel (M.B.A. '76) of Hingham, Maine, 4/28/20

John Sieminski '76 (M.S. '98) of Norfolk, 3/24/20

Clair H. Upton, USCG (Ret) '76 of Bountiful, Utah, 7/25/20

Martha T. Wineman '76 of Newport News, 7/30/20

Robert I. Young '76 of Richmond, Va., 5/5/20

Barbara F. Lambert '77 of Virginia Beach, 5/3/20

David R. Nelson Sr. '77 (M.S.Ed. '99) of Norfolk, 6/12/20

Pamela M. Warner '77 of Virginia Beach, 7/2/20

John R. Boyce '78 of
Chesapeake, 7/24/20

Valerie B. Hixon '78 of
Newport News, 6/16/20

Brenda W. Savage '78 of
Suffolk, 3/4/20

Robert T. Silver '78 of
Clarksville, Tenn., 1/11/20

William H. Swan (M.S.Ed. '78) of
Norfolk, 3/25/20

Stephen T. Bergrab (M.S. '79) of
Youngstown, Ohio, 3/15/20

William F. Dunkley Jr. (M.B.A. '79) of Chesapeake, 5/2/20

Milford K. Howell Jr. '79 of
Chesapeake, 6/11/20

Arlene B. Kesser '79 of
Norfolk, 4/23/20

Virgil S. Laney '79 of
Tabb, Va., 8/20/20

Bradley W. Pearson '79 of
Yorktown, Va., 6/21/20

Capt. Brian F. Boyce, USN (Ret) (M.B.A. '80) of Norfolk, 2/22/20

A. Louise Staman (M.A. '80) of
Savannah, Ga., 3/30/20

Frances L. Alwood (M.S.Ed. '81) of
Suffolk, 2/27/20

Sharon H. Church '81 of
Norfolk, 5/1/20

Constance K. Cole (M.S.Ed. '81) of
Virginia Beach and Richmond,
Va., 8/10/20

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Virginia Beach, 4/2/20

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Anita Newman Mitchell '81 of
Norfolk, 5/4/20

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Evelyn H. Wigglesworth-Brown (C.A.S. '81) of Chesapeake, 4/4/20

Lois B. Barrett '82 of
Laurel, Md., 6/28/20

Avis F. Blake-Thomas '82 of
Houston, Texas, 4/12/20

Madge S. Christian (M.S.Ed. '82) of Exmore, Va., 4/9/20

Thomas A. Christos (M.S. '82) of
Wake Forest, N.C., 4/1/20

Barry E. Claybrook '82 of
Arlington, Va., 5/9/20

Betty J. Dunton (M.S.Ed. '83) of
Onancock, Va., 5/13/20

Alfred L. How III '83 of
Virginia Beach, 5/25/20

Michael R. Sheehan '83 of
Virginia Beach, 7/13/20

Danny Y. Tarbell (M.B.A. '84) of
Chesapeake, 3/30/20

Margaret A. Goodbread '85 of
Virginia Beach, 12/13/19

Thomas E. Johnson (M.S.Ed. '85) of Norfolk, 7/20/20

Joan W. Jones (M.S.Ed. '85) of
Providence Forge, Va., 4/12/20

Carl Sweetnam '85 of
Philadelphia, Pa., and Lorton, Va.,
2/22/20

Douglas W. Marsh '86 of
Lynchburg, Va., 3/10/20

Paul L. Newton (M.P.A. '86) of
Lynchburg, Va., 8/1/20

Anne C. Vollrath (M.S.Ed. '86) of
Newport News, 4/1/20

Mary F. Harrell (C.A.S. '87) of
Chesapeake, 8/3/20

Robert B. LaMason '87 (M.B.A. '90) of Newport News, 8/18/20

Harriette L. Parham (M.S.Ed. '87) of Norfolk, 5/14/20

James B. Bagby '88 of
Virginia Beach, 3/24/20

Donald E. Chase '88 (M.B.A. '89) of Chesapeake, 5/2/20

Anthony W. DeShong '88 of
Hampton, 8/15/20

Candace S. Hudgins '88 of
Hampton, 7/30/20

Edward J. Bano III '89 (M.B.A. '93) of Virginia Beach, 5/18/20

James K. Farley Jr. '89 of
Chesapeake, 6/9/20

Jennifer M. Ford (M.S.Ed. '89) of
Chesapeake, 3/18/20

Sylvia G. Perlowski '89 of
Gainesville, Fla., 8/21/20



Jeffrey P. Cooper '90 of Yorktown, Va., 3/22/20

Donna Deans Karianen '90 of Newport News, 1/3/20

Richard E. Kowalski Jr. '90 of Morgantown, W.Va., 2/27/20

Michael W. Meeks '90 of Virginia Beach, 6/30/20

Kathleen F. Rouse '90 of Cape Charles, Va., 6/28/20

Capt. Louis A. Gomez, USN (Ret) (M.E.M. '91) of Williamsburg, 7/12/20

Lt. Col. William S. Patton, USA, VANG (Ret) '91 of Virginia Beach, 4/19/20

Elizabeth H. Beagle '92 of Virginia Beach, 8/10/20

Lt. Col. David G. Bisset, USAF (Ret) (M.S.Ed. '92) of Virginia Beach, 3/18/20

Thomas E. Richards '92 of Virginia Beach, 4/5/20

Richard R. Montoya '93 of Greenville, N.C., 6/21/20

Michael A. Stafford '93 of Portsmouth, 5/11/20

Chief Petty Officer Joseph H. Davies, USN (Ret) (M.S.Ed. '94) of Spokane, Wash., 6/8/20

Jesse S. Poulson (M.S.Ed. '94) of Onancock, Va., 7/13/20

John S. Stone '94 of Franklin, Tenn., 6/26/20

Capt. John L. Lovering Jr., USN (Ret) (M.S. '95) of Virginia Beach, 2/13/20

Henry J. Abraham (HON '96) of Charlottesville, Va., 2/26/20

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Sabrina A. Jones '05 of Norfolk, 7/11/20

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Tiffany M. Squyres '05 of Chesapeake, 5/5/20

Christopher T. Carter, USN (Ret) (M.A. '07) of Virginia Beach, 3/10/20

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Curtis Walton '08 of Portsmouth, 4/8/20

Katherine G. Johnson (HON '10) of Newport News, 2/24/20

William J. Rush '11 of Arlington, Va., 7/31/20

Elizabeth B. Westgard '11 of Portsmouth, 5/30/20

Lisa G. Davenport '12 of Gloucester Point, Va., 7/16/20

Thomas G. Jackson '12 of Chesapeake, 5/10/20

Liston Bailey Jr., USA (Ret) (M.P.A. '13) of Williamsburg, 3/2/20

Helen C. Hightower (Ph.D. '14) of Chesterfield, Va., 8/23/20

Kelly T. Johnson '14 of Isle of Wight County, Va., 4/10/20

Steven K. Landen '14 of Chesterfield, Va., 5/19/20

Kandace V. McGill '14 of Portsmouth, 6/16/20

M. Todd McIntyre '14 of Abingdon, Va., 5/23/20

Coby L. Markham '16 of South Boston, Va., 2/25/20

Holly R. Padgett '17 of Harrisonburg, Va., 5/31/20

Thomas P. Veness '17 of Waldorf, Md., 6/12/20

Cindy R. Gordon '18 of Portsmouth, 8/17/20

Cameron A. Rakes '20 of Evington, Va., 6/12/20



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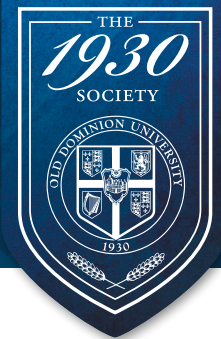
Proceeds from this event support the ODU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

The Barry's Abloom

The Barry Art Museum's newest exhibition, "Orchids: Attraction and Deception," features 32 works that offer historical and contemporary interpretations of the fascinating flower. Some take a realistic approach; others, like Natalja Kent's 2018 work "Movement Artifact," offer an abstract vision. The exhibition runs through Aug. 1. Admission is free. More details are at barryartmuseum.odu.edu.

Photo courtesy of Natalja Kent.





Karen Keesling was born an only child in Wichita, Kansas. One of her earliest loves was golf. She learned the sport from a local pro when she was just 10 years old. At 15, she won the first of two Kansas Junior Girls Golf Tournaments. In high school, Karen was the first girl to earn a letter sweater, which required participation in all sports, and she taught the golf class because the gym teacher didn't play.



Karen Keesling

"Karen chose Arizona State University because of its golf program," said longtime friend Carolyn Nakamura. She received financial aid and played on the varsity team, and is still listed on the All Time Roster 1965-68. "Karen won the 1966 Kansas Women's Golf Championship, and several holes in one, and even considered going pro," Carolyn added. The two met at ASU and became close friends through their involvement in student government. "We were roommates in our senior year, and the first year of grad school, which bonded us like sisters," said Carolyn, "and she later served as my maid of honor."

Karen received a B.A. in math education in 1968 and an M.A. in 1970. Following graduation, Karen accepted a position as associate dean of women at the University of Kansas. Just two years later, she moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as executive secretary for the Department of HEW's Advisory Commission on Rights and Responsibilities of Women, the catalyst to Karen's commitment to equal rights for women.

In 1975, Karen became the director of the White House Office of Women. She later joined the staff of Sen. Nancy Kassebaum as a legislative aide. "Karen's desire to attend law school stemmed from our nightly ritual of watching Perry Mason, eating Dunkin' Donuts, and chiming in with our comments and objections," said Carolyn.

Karen went on to receive her law degree from Georgetown University Law School in 1981. Her career then took her on a nine-year commitment with the Air Force, with appointments that included director of equal employment opportunity, deputy assistant secretary for manpower resources and military personnel, principal deputy assistant secretary for manpower, reserve affairs and installations, for readiness support, and assistant secretary for manpower and reserve affairs.

"Karen's many accomplishments in Washington, D.C., have impacted more lives than Karen would have ever imagined. Her quest was for equal rights for women. She worked on writing regulations for Title IX, which has impacted schools and universities for non-discrimination in women's athletics, and now all areas of education," said Carolyn.

In 1990, Karen served as state president of the Virginia Federation of Business and Professional Women, the organization that Karen

continued to support and would later link her to Old Dominion University. In 1996, Karen relocated to Arizona to care for her aging parents and practice law until her retirement.

Following Karen's untimely death, Carolyn and her husband, Satoshi, were named trustees of the Karen Keesling Trust, and that included unraveling Karen's estate with their attorney. Included in Karen's trust was a bequest to the Virginia Business and Professional Women's Foundation. The organization, however, had become defunct, and a decision was made by the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County to transfer that bequest to Old Dominion University's Educational Foundation. In keeping with the original memorandum of understanding, the court decided that the gift was to be restricted to ODU's Foundation House.



ODU Foundation House, interior space and landscaping

The Nakamuras visited Old Dominion University in 2014, to meet with the women of the Foundation House and to discuss the needs of the house. The results of that meeting, and Karen Keesling's generous gift to ODU, can be seen in the new furniture and many upgrades made to the Foundation House. The women living at the Foundation House heartily agree that it's a pretty special place.

**Office of Gift Planning**

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Assistant Director
757-683-4735
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If you've been considering an estate plan that includes ODU, or you have already done so, we welcome you to join us in the 1930 Society, where your gift will assist future students with their education through scholarships or program support.



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