

ODU Town-N-Gown

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia 23529 757-683-5759



December 2024



Town-N-Gown Leadership

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Upcoming Events / Dates to Remember

- Dec 3 *Giving Tuesday*
- Dec 3 Town-N-Gown Board Meeting, 9:30am Webb Center
- Dec 4, 11 & 18 Planetarium Shows @ The L  Planetarium (pg 7)
- Dec 6 & 7 ODU Madrigal Banquets @ The Goode (pg 5)
- Dec 6 - 14 BFA Graduates Exhibition @ The Gordon (pg 6)
- Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec 13 National Guard 388th Birthday
- Dec 14 Fall 2024 Commencement @ Chartway Arena (pg 3)
- Dec 15 Bill of Rights Day
- Dec 21 1st Day of Winter
- Dec 28 Pledge of Allegiance Day
- Thru Jan 5 Dollhaus: Reimagining the Domestic Space @ The Barry
- Feb 4 Town-N-Gown Board Meeting, 9:30am Webb Center

Around Campus

Two Faculty Inducted as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing

On November 2, two distinguished faculty in the Ellmer School of Nursing, part of Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University, were inducted as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) during a ceremony at the annual Health Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. Associate Professors Tina Gustin, DNP and Kelli Garber, DNP, were recognized by peers within and beyond the nursing profession for their contributions to the advancement of public health. Drs. Gustin and Garber will join more than 3,000 Fellows who represent the nation's most accomplished leaders in nursing academia, administration, research, practice and policy.



Dr. Garber is a pediatric primary care nurse practitioner with more than 28 years of experience in private practice, school-based health and virtual care. She is an expert in telehealth and contributed to the statewide development and expansion of school-based telehealth in South Carolina. At ODU, she is director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Advanced Practice Program and is leading efforts to develop school-based health in the ODU Community Care Program - the University's community health program that solves challenges faced by rural and underserved populations.

Dr. Gustin has more than 35 years of advanced practice nursing experience. She is the co-director of the Ellmer College of Nursing Center for Telehealth Innovation, Education, and Research (C-TIER) - a national telehealth learning hub and research center. She has served as the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PI for grants totaling more than \$6 million aimed at populations served through Community Care initiatives and was at the helm of the development of its partnership with People in Need (PiN) Ministry, and most recently, the Virginia Beach Housing Resource Center aimed at providing free and charitable healthcare for the unhoused population in Virginia Beach. She is the clinical manager for the Pediatric Telehealth program at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters [and] serves on several local, state and national boards and organizations.

Credit: Kenya Godette, ODU News

Full story [HERE](#)



Giving Tuesday is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving in the United States. It is touted as a "global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world." This epic annual moment - December 3rd this year - is a worldwide celebration for charitable giving.

To the extent you can, please consider supporting the **Monarch Food Pantry**, which serves ODU students facing food insecurity, or the **Town-N-Gown Scholarship** fund, which supports undergraduate and graduate students from the area, national defense, and ODU communities. Both are most worthy of your consideration this giving season!!



Fall Commencement 2024

Join in celebrating Old Dominion University's Fall 2024 Commencement ceremonies!

December 14, 2024 | Chartway Arena |
4320 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23529

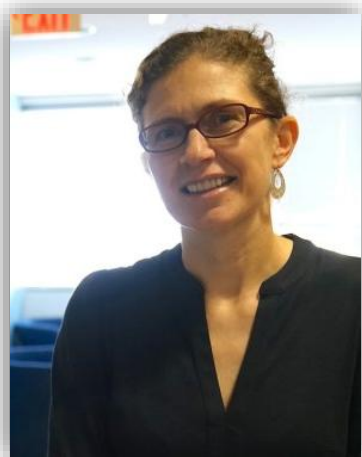
9am: Arts & Letters; Engineering & Technology; Sciences; Cybersecurity; & Data Science

12:30pm: Education & Professional Studies; Business; Health Sciences; Nursing; & Graduate School



History Professor Links Students with Career-Building Internships

For Associate Professor of History Elizabeth Zaroni, spreading the gospel of experiential learning comes easy. She knows it by heart. “As an undergraduate student majoring in American Studies, I interned at an advertising agency, a daily newspaper, and a trade association in the food industry,” said Zaroni, who today serves as director of the Monarch Humanities Internship Studio at ODU... help[ing] ODU humanities students find those same formative experiences.



The new Monarch Humanities Internship Studio functions as the funding arm of the larger Monarch Humanities Internship Academy. Thanks to a generous Mellon Foundation grant, the studio pays undergraduate humanities students to complete internships at nonprofits and government agencies. The Monarch Humanities Internship Academy is one of just five schools nationwide to receive this prestigious grant.

What [she] enjoys most about teaching and working with students at ODU is the diversity of backgrounds, perspectives and talents students bring to the classroom. The classes are enriched through this diversity and the connections students make between their lived experiences, the course content and the larger world beyond ODU.

Credit: Sam McDonald, ODU News | Image credit: Sam McDonald Full story [HERE](#)



Town-N-Gown Rita M. Costello Community Service Award

Each year, Town-N-Gown recognizes an individual from our larger community who exemplifies community service and demonstrated unusual concern for and commitment to serving others. To nominate a member of the community or request additional information, contact Pamela McNaught at pamelamcnaught@aol.com. The 2024 Recipient will be recognized at the Town-N-Gown Annual meeting (and our 60th Anniversary celebration!) on May 20, 2025.

Old Dominion University Faculty Among Most Influential Scientists Globally

At least four ODU researchers recently joined dozens of their colleagues as some of the top 2% most-cited scientists in the world, according to a recent Stanford University ranking of the most influential subject matter experts. Each fall since 2019, Stanford and Elsevier, an academic publisher, have released two databases ranking researchers' influence within their fields. One identifies the top 2% of researchers most cited in the last calendar year, and the other ranks the top 2% of researchers' career-long influence in their fields.



Dr. Sachin Shetty has been on the annual list for several years, but this is the first time he has been recognized on the career list. His cybersecurity research focuses on the intersection of computer networking, network security and machine learning.

Helen Crompton, Ph.D., another regular on the annual list, also reached the career list for the first time this year. After spending 16 years as a classroom teacher in the UK and the US, she started her academic career on the forefront of research into mobile learning. In 2017, her research turned to the use of artificial intelligence in education, just before the field exploded – and she's been on the cutting edge ever since. The United Nations approached her in 2019 to design their AI framework and support the writing of the current United Nations AI guides for educators.



Dr. Elsayed-Ali is a Batten Endowed Professor and Eminent Scholar of electrical engineering. He was one of the founding members of ODU's Applied Research Center and has served as its director since 2005 [and] serves as the principal investigator on the development of a laser-based secondary ion mass spectrometer for chemical analysis, funded by the National Science Foundation, in collaboration with other University faculty and the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Giabbanelli joined the University this fall as the director of Modeling and Simulation for Health & STEM Research at the Virginia Modeling and Simulation Center (VMASC). Among other research, he will continue a project he started with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about four years ago to evaluate interventions that can help prevent suicide in children and adolescents. Modeling and simulation can account for the hundreds of variables involved in such complex scenarios, he said.



Credit: Katrina Dix, ODU News

Full story [HERE](#)



ODU Named a 2024 Healthiest Employer of Virginia

ODU was named in the 2024 Healthiest Employers of Virginia rankings. The University was ranked fourth in the “1,000 to 4,999 Employees” category and the only higher education institution ranked in the state.

Credit: Kenya Godette, ODU News

Full story [HERE](#)

ODU, Ghost Kitchen Team Up to Create Big Blue Smash Burger

Blake Sehestedt likes to make people smile. And there were plenty of smiles to go around at S.B. Ballard Stadium on Saturday, November 23, when Sehestedt, owner and operator of Ghost Kitchen, officially debuted the *Big Blue Smash Burger*. Created in partnership with ODU, this new burger was available for sale at the Ghost Kitchen food truck at the Monarchs' football game.



The *Big Blue Smash Burger* features two smashed and seared beef patties, seasoned with *Big Blue Belly Rub* and topped with American cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions and a special mayo that incorporates both the rub and *Big Blue Q* barbecue sauce. Add to that a brioche bun, hot-iron branded with either the University's athletic crown logo or an image of Big Blue, and there's a burger Monarch fans can really sink their teeth into.

Served with fries, the *Big Blue Smash Burger* will be available year-round at both Ghost Kitchen and Smartmouth Brewery in Norfolk, where the food truck has a permanent location. Royalties from each sale will go to ODU's general scholarship fund.

The *Big Blue Smash Burger* is the latest in a line of ODU-licensed consumables, in partnership with local businesses, that have provided scholarship money. Since August 2023, combined royalties from New Realm's *ODU Golden Ale*, The Dirty Buffalo's *Big Blue Q* and *Big Blue Belly Rub*, and Lolly's *Ice Cream and Cake* flavor have totaled nearly \$15,000.

Credit: Jeff Cunningham, ODU News

Full Story [HERE](#)



@ The Goode



ODU Madrigal Banquets

Come dance and sing at the annual ODU Madrigal Banquets! This holiday event will feature a selection of historical and seasonal music and dance presented by the Madrigal Singers, Collegium Musicum, and Sackbut Consort. This year, music from the Iberian Peninsula will be featured, and guests will once again have the opportunity to join in the dancing and singing!

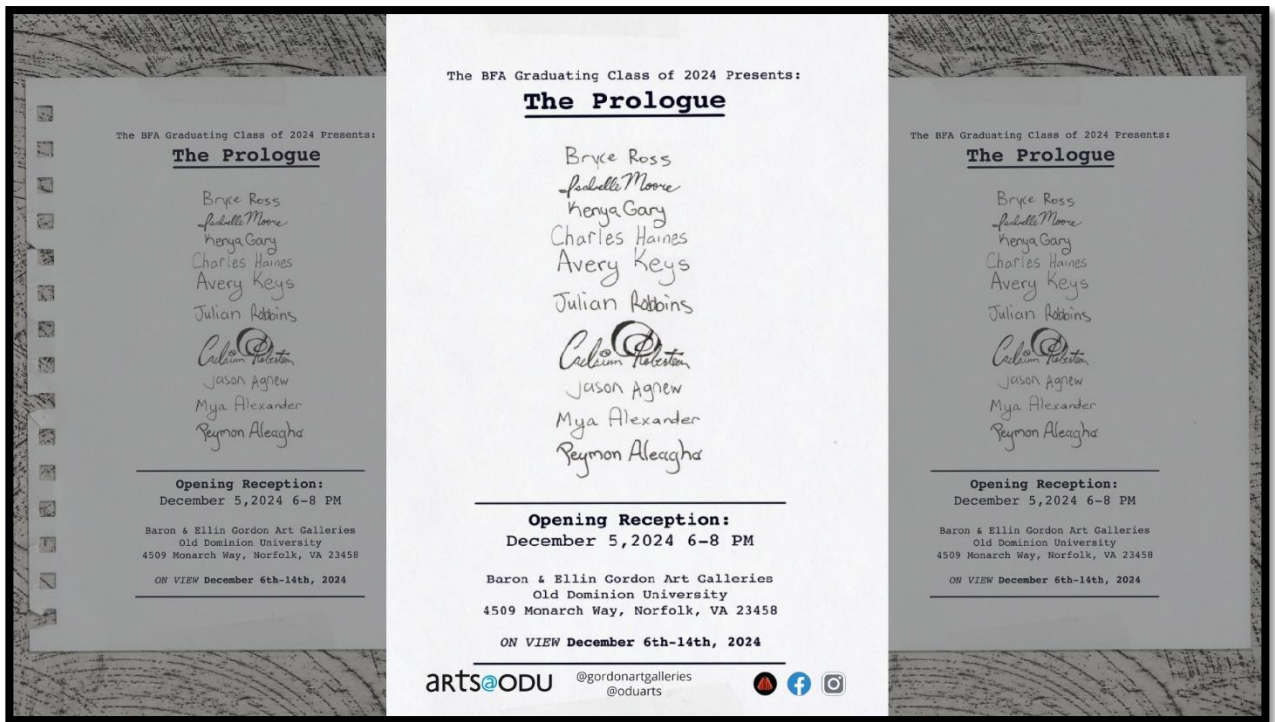
December 6 & 7 | 6:30pm | Goode Theatre
4601 Monarch Way

[TICKETS](#) Online ONLY



@ The Gordon

Fall 2024 Senior Exhibition



December 6 - 14 | Opening Reception: December 5 | 6 - 8pm

Free & open to the public

The BFA graduating class of fall 2024 presents *The Prologue*, opening at the Baron and Ellin Gordon Galleries. *The Prologue* encompasses works from 10 artists exploring an array of media and themes. The graduating seniors create the artwork and plan and execute the exhibition.

The student artists are available to discuss their works at the reception.

More information at odu.edu/gordongalleries or call the Galleries at (757) 683-6271

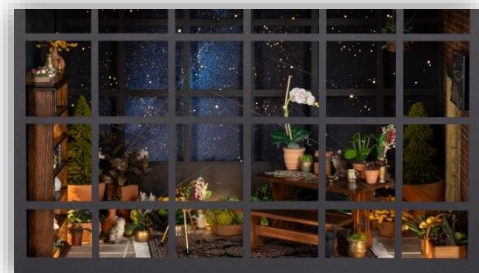
Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 4pm | Parking available 45th & Hampton Blvd. Garage



@ The Barry

“Dollhaus: Reimagining the Domestic Space,”

On view through January 5, 2025. In addition to the dollhouses, the exhibition will include several 19th-century artworks. One is a novelty porcelain doll created by French artist Jacob Petit (1796-1868) whose skirt opens to reveal a kitchen.



@ The L  Planetarium

December 6 | Doors open 6pm | \$4

First Friday of each month is classic sci-fi movie night - so bad, they're good. The night starts with a trivia contest at 6:30pm followed by an old sci-fi film at 7pm.

Santa Claus Conquers the Martians (1964)

"Martians kidnap Santa Claus because there is nobody on Mars to give their children presents."



For ALL shows: Cash, credit, or debit accepted at the door. No early reservations for tickets.

December 4 | Doors open 6pm | \$4

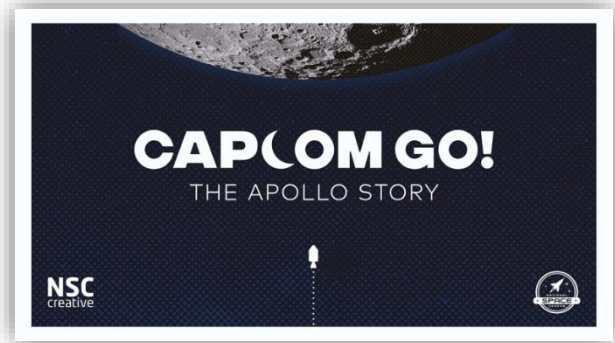


Throughout Earth's violent history, impacts from comets and asteroids have mercilessly shaped its surface. The ancient barrage continues today; from harmless meteors - those brilliant streaks in the night sky, to mountain sized boulders wandering perilously close to Earth. Life on Earth owes its very existence to these denizens of the solar system, yet it could all be wiped out in an instant.

Firefall licensing is made possible through a grant from Town-N-Gown.

December 11 | Doors open 6pm | \$4

55 years ago the first human walked on the moon... discover the story behind this historic moment which will inspire the next generation of explorers and dreamers. *CAPCOM GO!* is an immersive, historical documentary that showcases the achievements of the Apollo program and what it took to put the first human on the Moon.



December 18 | Doors open 6pm | \$4



MARS: The Ultimate Voyage. Join us on a journey to the Red Planet. What does it take to make it to Mars? In this new production designed by Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, we'll discover the many challenges astronauts will face and how creativity, communication, and collaboration are essential for deep space exploration.

Around Town



So many Holiday Happenings in Portsmouth!! More information [HERE](#)



30th Annual Holiday Parade at the Beach

The annual Holiday Parade at the Beach returns for its 30th year at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. Scheduled to take place on December 7 at 5:30pm along Atlantic Avenue from 15th to 25th Streets, the parade will include giant balloons, lighted floats, marching bands, equestrian units, fire trucks, performing dance groups and more!

And don't forget the spectacular Holiday Lights at the Beach (drive on the Boardwalk!).

Information on tickets and times [HERE](#).



Worth a repeat (from the November newsletter!) Scammers are especially active during the holiday season and focused on getting your \$\$!!

SCAM ALERT - BEWARE OF GIFTS FROM UNKNOWN SENDERS!!

In case you haven't heard...passing along some recently received important and timely information:

A scam called "brushing" has been gaining traction and showing up in many states. A "brushing" scam is when someone receives an unexpected item or gift in the mail from a place like Amazon or other known company. The item has not been ordered by the recipient. Examples of gifts include rings, bracelets, necklaces, Bluetooth speakers, etc. The gift will have the recipients address, be from a known retailer, but does not include the sender's information. When the recipient opens the package to see what it is, and possibly who sent it, there is a QR code to scan to find out who sent the gift. Once the code is scanned, all the information from that phone will be sent to scammers. The scammer(s) receive all access to the phone. All personal and financial information is accessible and often, the victim's bank accounts are drained.



With the coming holiday season, be sure to track your purchases. If you receive an unexpected package, especially if the sender information is absent, do NOT scan any QR code that may be included.



Town-N-Gown Notes

We were most fortunate to have Millicent D. Lee, Ph.D., stepping in to address our November Board of Directors meeting. Dr. Lee is the Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusive Excellence in the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity. Dr. Lee's presentation centered on the programs currently ongoing, including the those in partnership with ODU Virginia Health Sciences focused on equity in health services in our region. We are most appreciative of Dr. Lee's time in sharing her expertise and a most informative lecture with us. Thank you Dr. Lee!

Join Us!

All Town-N-Gown members are most welcome to attend the meetings of the Board of Directors. The December Town-N-Gown Board meeting is Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 9:30am in Webb Center. Our guest speaker will be Cathy Lewis, Community Engagement Liaison, ODU Office of Community Engagement and the new University Liaison to Town-N-Gown. We are extremely pleased and most fortunate to have Cathy onboard!

Contact Pamela McNaught (pamelamcnaught@aol.com or text 757-641-5043) for location details.



***** Thank you for your continuing support of Town-N-Gown & Old Dominion University! *****

GO MONARCHS!!