

# ODU Town-N-Gown

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



October 2025

October 1 - National 'Coffee with a Cop' Day  
October 5 - National 'Do Something Nice' Day  
October 6 - National Child Health Day  
October 8 - National Hero Day  
October 12 - National Farmers' Day  
October 13 - Native American Day / Columbus Day  
October 13 - U.S. Navy Birthday (*Happy 250\**)  
October 20 - National 'Clean Your Virtual Desktop' Day  
October - National Positive Attitude Month



## Town-N-Gown Leadership

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Jo Tabb Hayden

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AVP, Community Engagement



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## Upcoming Events / Dates to Remember

Oct 1 *Firefall* @ Lê Planetarium (pg 5)  
Oct 2 ODU Jazz @ Chandler Recital Hall (pg 3)  
Oct 2 ODU Libraries Workshop (pg 4)  
Oct 5 48th Literary Festival Opens (pg 2)  
Oct 7 Town-N-Gown Board Meeting @ Webb Center (pg 9)  
Oct 7 Brass Choir Concert @ Chandler Recital Hall (pg 3)  
Oct 11 Fall Holiday - thru 14 (no classes)  
Oct 11 TNG @ Fleet Fest, Naval Station Norfolk (pg 8)  
Oct 21 TNG Tour @ Ryan Resilience Lab (pg 9)  
Oct 23 Alumni Honors (pg 4)  
Oct 25 Homecoming Week! (pg 7)  
Oct 28 Madrigal Singers, *et al* Fall Concert (pg 3)  
Nov 11 Town-N-Gown Board Meeting @ Webb Center

***Save the Date*** - Nov 19 - Naval Base Tour (pg10)

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*Share the Membership Application (page 11) and return.*

*Keep us growing!!*

## *Around Campus*

### *Monarchs Give Back*



*Monarchs Give Back* is a university-wide initiative and community food drive dedicated to combatting food insecurity. The initiative was launched in Fall 2021 as part of President Hemphill's inauguration, and in partnership with First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill. Each year students, faculty, staff, and local partners unite to collect essential items for Norfolk Public Schools students in need and the Monarch Pantry, which serves our own ODU student community.

More than just a drive, *Monarchs Give Back* is a powerful expression of ODU's commitment to service, civic responsibility, and neighborly compassion. This campaign showcases the collective

spirit of the 757—where generosity, partnership, and care for one another are core values that bring us together to uplift those in need.

### EVENT SCHEDULE



## 48th Annual ODU Literary Festival

### Opening Reception

October 5, 2025 | 4pm - 6pm

The Green Onion Restaurant, 1603 Colley Ave.

Join The Muse Writers Center and Old Dominion University to celebrate the opening of the 48th Annual ODU Literary Festival! Presenters, participants, and attendees of the festival along with students, teachers, and friends of The Muse and the ODU MFA in Creative Writing program are welcome to enjoy *hors oeuvres* and conversation (with a cash bar).

The event is free and open to the public.



See the complete Literary Festival Schedule of Events [HERE](#)



## ODU Jazz: Jazz Combo and Jazz Orchestra in Concert

October 2, 2025 | 7:30pm Chandler Recital Hall

ODU Jazz presents the first concert of the semester, featuring the Jazz Combo and Jazz Orchestra. The performance is in Chandler Recital Hall within the Diehn Center for the Performing Arts.

Concert is FREE and open to the public.



## ODU Brass Choir Concert

October 7, 2025 | 7:30pm | Chandler Recital Hall

The ODU Brass Choir has been performing continuously since 1972 under the direction of William Bartolotta, and since 2006, directed by Mike Hall. The ensemble performs works written specifically for brass as well as arrangements of choral, orchestral, jazz, pop and show music. The choir often divides into smaller groups to perform chamber music.

Concert is FREE and open to the public.



## Madrigal Singers, Collegium Musicum, and Alta Capella Fall Concert

October 28, 2025 | 7:30pm | Chandler Recital Hall | FREE





## Alumni Honors 2025

October 23, 2025 | Chartway Arena | Alumni, Campus Community, General Public

\$75 and up | [REGISTER](#)



Alumni Honors will bring together alumni, faculty, friends, and corporate partners to celebrate as the University recognizes outstanding alumni who have excelled in their professions and impacted their communities. This year, we will honor six outstanding alumni and recognize the 40 Under 40 Class of 2025. For the first time, Alumni Honors will take place at Chartway Arena on the ODU campus and will be hosted by "The Voice of the Monarchs" Ted Alexander! The event will also include live music and dancing to keep the celebration going after the awards program.



## ODU Libraries Workshop: Research Scary Stories

October 2, 2025 | Online / Virtual

**Open To:** Alumni, Campus Community, Faculty and Staff, General Public, Students

[REGISTER](#)

Let's kick off this spooky season, with a real frightening topic: completing college-level research assignments and all the things that can go wrong. Join us on Zoom as we gather around the virtual campfire for a night of Research Scary Stories. Listen to our tales, if you dare, and learn to avoid similar horrors with the library resources we wish we had or knew about when we were students.



Contact: Jasmine Kirby, [jskirby@odu.edu](mailto:jskirby@odu.edu).



**Fun Fact:** ... about October, even with leap years adding extra days, October and February always end on the same day of the week. If the last day of October is a Tuesday, it will also be a Tuesday in February. Go check!

@ The L  Planetarium



October 1, 2025 | 6:30pm Trivia | 7pm Movie | \$4

*Firefall.* 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. Terrifying and majestic, these invaders from space are capable of utter destruction yet they have delivered life-giving water and most of the organic materials necessary for life. This ceaseless

Firefall is our only tangible connection to the universe beyond and is an ever-present reminder of our own humble beginnings in the hostile environment of space. Recommended Ages 8+

*Licensing for Firefall was made possible through a grant from Town-N-Gown.*

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Bad Movie Night



October 3, 2025 | 6:30pm Trivia | 7pm Movie | \$4

*Meteor* (1979). As we gear up for World Space Week, we have a series of events themed around ASTEROIDS. Bad Movie Night for October features a little-known actor, Sean Connery, where a group of scientists struggle with Cold War politics after an asteroid is detected to be on a collision course with Earth. The U.S. must join forces with the USSR in order to destroy the object and save Earth.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Killer Asteroids*



October 8, 2025 | 6:30pm Trivia | 7pm Movie | \$4

NASA Solar System Ambassador, Jason Fite, leads an engaging, public talk about the fascinating and urgent topic of asteroids. These ancient remnants of our solar system can pose real dangers to Earth. The presentation will introduce what asteroids are, where they come from, and how scientists track them using advanced detection techniques. Learn about

the potential risks posed by near-Earth objects, from small impacts to catastrophic collisions, and the real-world strategies being developed to prevent disaster. Mitigation approaches will be highlighted to show how humanity is preparing to protect our planet. Recommended Ages 8+.

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## Musical Event: Tim Seibles & Chris Brydge

October 8, 2025 | 4:30pm | University Theatre | 4600 Hampton Blvd. | Free & Open to the Public



**Tim Seibles**, the former Poet Laureate of Virginia, was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is the author of several books of poetry including *Hurdy-Gurdy*, *Hammerlock*, and *Buffalo Head Solos*. His first collection, *Body Moves*, (1988) was re-released by the Carnegie Mellon University Press as part of their Contemporary Classics series. *Fast Animal* was one of five poetry finalists for the 2012 National Book Award. In 2013 he received the Pen Oakland Josephine Miles Award for poetry and in 2014 Tim received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Misericordia University for his literary accomplishments. During that same year, he won the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Award for *Fast Animal*, a prize given

triennially for a collection of poems. In 2015, he chaired the panel of judges that decided the winner of the National Book Award in poetry. *One Turn Around the Sun* was published in 2017; his most recent collection, *Voodoo Libretto: New & Selected Poems*, was released in 2022. He has been a workshop leader for Cave Canem, a writer's retreat for African American poets, and for the Hurston/Wright Foundation, another organization dedicated to developing black writers. Tim Seibles lives in Norfolk and is Emeritus Professor of English at ODU.

**Chris Brydge** is a freelance bassist, educator, composer and band leader who has been performing in and around the greater Tidewater area of Virginia since 1994. He earned his bachelors degree in Music Education from ODU in 2000. He taught in the Virginia public school system as an orchestra director for thirteen years and as an adjunct jazz bass professor at William and Mary College and Christopher Newport University. For over 20 years he has had the pleasure of being a member of the Virginia Symphony Jazz Orchestra, Roy Muth Big Band, and Eddie Williams Quartet. You can also find him performing with his own ensembles, Left of Center, the Chris Brydge trio/quartet, Liz Terrell Quartet, and as part of the bass and voice duo Liz & Brydge.



## Strome College of Business to Host Social Media Hackathon

ODU students will have the chance to flex their creativity, digital skills and business savvy during the inaugural Strome College of Business Social Media Hackathon on October 17-18. The 24-hour event, open to all ODU students, is designed to provide real-world learning opportunities in digital marketing and content creation.

A hackathon is a high-energy event where participants collaborate over several days, developing innovative solutions to a specific challenge. The goal is to combine strategy, storytelling and technical skills to build engaging, student-generated posts that resonate with social media audiences.

The Social Media Hackathon was funded in 2024 through the annual Strome College of Business Problem Solving Challenge. Winning teams will be awarded cash prizes and may have their content featured on Strome's social media channels.



Credit: Jordan-Ashley Walker, ODU News

Full story [HERE](#)



## Homecoming 2025



Homecoming Week kicks off on October 20<sup>th</sup> with “Paint the Town Blue” at 10am at Webb Center and the official kick-off at 5pm on Kaufmann Mall. The spirited start to Homecoming Week features the annual tradition of turning the Lion Fountain blue! ODU Student Organizations, Departments, and Student groups will “Claim Your Crown” by painting a crown on the sidewalks bordering Kaufman Mall at 10am on October 21<sup>st</sup> and “Meet the Monarchy” at 7pm in Webb Center. Monarch Day celebrates Homecoming Week with a spirited festival on

Kaufman Mall on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and the annual Alumni Honors 2025 at 6pm in Chartway Arena (see article on page 4 of this newsletter). Big Blue’s Boardwalk at Whitehurst Beach on the Elizabeth River starts at 5pm with fireworks starting at 7:30pm. Game Day - October 25<sup>th</sup> - kicks-off with ODU’s annual Homecoming Parade at 11am. Join student organizations, community businesses, alumni groups, and more at this annual tradition! Watch anywhere on 49th Street, 43rd Street, or Hampton Boulevard. The student and reunion tailgates start at 1pm at Koch Hall and continue until kick-off.



More info [HERE](#)



## *Around Town - Norfolk*



### *What We Ask of Flesh*

October 10, 2025 | 7pm | Attucks Theatre, 1010 Church Street

48<sup>th</sup> Annual Literary Festival | Free | Tickets [REQUIRED](#)

*What We Ask of Flesh* is a 7-year labor of true communion and collaboration. Conceptual Architect Christal Brown has brought together a brilliant cast of movement artists, composers, writers, and technologists to create an immersive evening-length dance and installation. Inspired by Remica Bingham-Risher's poetry and the caregiver's journey through Alzheimer's disease and dementia, the navigation of grief, and the

redemption of joy. Set to live music, five movement artists assisted by media projection, lights, and garments of art take the audience on a journey of truth and triumph.

Directed by Christal Brown | Poetry by Remica Bingham-Risher



## Around Town - Portsmouth



See events info [HERE](#)



Celebrate your Navy's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!

Town-N-Gown members are invited to join the Naval Station Commanding Officer, Captain Matt Schlarmann, in the Commanding Officers Reception Tent. Ticketed Admission to the Reception Tent includes complimentary refreshments and welcome seating!

*Please respond by **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**!! Include your full name and email address. Your required tickets for entry to the Commanding Officer's Reception will be sent to the address you provide. Fleet Fest on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> is free of charge.*

Members may reply to  
townngownodu@yahoo.com - or - text to  
757-839-1883





## *Town-N-Gown Notes*



## New Members!

Lovie Blow | Lee Clark &amp; Maureen Halligan | Wardel &amp; Shirley Nottingham

Town-N-Gown members are always welcome at the board meetings as well as attending any associated scheduled tours. The October 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting will be held in Webb Center beginning with a Guest Speaker at 9:30am. Contact Jo Hayden ([jihaydn@gmail.com](mailto:jihaydn@gmail.com)) for details and to RSVP. November board meeting will be held November 11<sup>th</sup>.



# Town-N-Gown Tour of Ryan Resilience Lab

Town-N-Gown honored Marjorie Mayfield Jackson in May 2025 with the Town-N-Gown Rita M. Costello Community Service Award. Ms. Jackson is the founder of the non-profit *Elizabeth River Project*. You are invited to attend this special guided tour of the *Elizabeth River Project's* Ryan Resilience Lab.



Tuesday October 21, 2025 | Guided Tour 10 am - 11 am | 4610 Colley Ave., Norfolk

Optional gathering follows at 11:30 for lunch (no host) at the Starving Artist Café, 4408 Colley Ave.

*RSVP by October 17* to Jo Hayden | [jthaydn@gmail.com](mailto:jthaydn@gmail.com) | (757) 839-1883

Join Town-N-Gown for a tour of the Elizabeth River Project's new globally significant resilience model, the Ryan Resilience Lab. This state-of-the-art building showcases how we can protect both the ecosystem and humans as sea levels rise, incorporating replicable, environmentally sustainable design and construction. The building site features continuous rain gardens that filter stormwater runoff, solar panels and batteries that aim for net-zero energy consumption, a floating entry pavilion that rises and falls with the tide, a living shoreline of restored wetlands, oyster beds, and native plants, the River Room that hosts workshops, events, and exhibits, and toilets that flush with 100% harvested rainwater.

The Ryan Resilience Lab is also the key anchor for the Eco-District, a collaborative effort to transform the northern part of Norfolk's Colley Avenue near Knitting Mill Creek into an innovation corridor that fosters economic development, social equity, and environmental stewardship.



## Town-N-Gown Board Meeting Guest Speaker



Nina Rodriguez Gonser, ODU Vice President for Digital Transformation & Technology, will speak at the Town-N-Gown Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Ms. Gonser will address ODUGLOBAL “Education for Your World.”

As always, all Town-N-Gown members are invited to attend. The meeting will be held in the Student Senate Chambers, Webb Center, located in the first room on the right if entering from the circle parking entry to Webb Center, across the hall from the River Rooms.

To attend via Zoom, use this link: <https://odu.zoom.us/j/99839368751>

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the Naval Base Tour Office at 9079 Hampton Blvd.

The image shows the exterior of Mike's Pizza. A large blue sign with white lettering reads "MIKE'S PIZZA". Below the sign is a glass entrance door. Through the door, the interior is visible, showing a sign that says "THE GYROS" and several people seated at tables.



The Tour Bus has only 37 seats, so early registration is essential! To claim your seat, register [HERE](#) by October 27<sup>th</sup>. For more information or questions, contact David Heath, [heathdsh@hotmail.com](mailto:heathdsh@hotmail.com) or (757) 739-0536.

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*It's Time to Renew!*

Dues for 2025-2026 membership are due now!

**TOWN-N-GOWN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership dues are \$25.00 and include a spouse/partner (single address).

Type of Membership: (Check One) New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ (*All members must renew!*)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

(List both names if a dual membership)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (*Please indicate your contact preference!*)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Email addresses are very important for sending updates and special messages – please update TNG when you change addresses! Town-N-Gown does not share your contact information with any organizations other than the ODU Events Office to use for invitations.)

Make checks payable to **Town-N-Gown** and mail to:

Lawrence Owes

P.O. Box 51

Portsmouth, VA 23705

For questions, contact Mary Lou Speckheuer at (757) 285-2722 | [marylou110@cox.net](mailto:marylou110@cox.net)

*Thank you for your continuing support of Town-N-Gown and ODU!!*