



TOWN-N-GOWN | SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER – 2026

TOWN-N-GOWN LEADERSHIP

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Vacant – Taking nominations

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AVO, Community Engagement

UPCOMING EVENTS / DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 8, 9:30 am – Board meeting at Webb Center
- September 13, 2:00-4:00pm – Member Reception at the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies
- September 14, 12:00pm – Deadline to RSVP for the TNG invite to the NAS Oceana Air Show
- September 19-20 – 2026 NAS Oceana Air Show, TNG member invite for Sept. 19!
- September 24 – American Heart Association Heart Walk at ODU
- September 26-27 – 52nd Annual Neptune Festival
- October 3 – TNG Tour of the USNS Comfort, details to be emailed
- October 6, 9:30 am – Board meeting at Webb Center

AROUND CAMPUS

TOWN-N-GOWN WELCOME RECEPTION

When: Sunday, September 13 from 2:00-4:00pm

Where: Darden College of Education and Professional Studies,
4301 Hampton Blvd
5th Floor Conference Room – Entrance on the Hampton Blvd side
of the building

Parking available on 42nd Street near Bowden's Ferry or in the garage at the corner of 43rd St. and Elkhorn Ave. (Drive west and turn right at 1st stop sign to find garage entrance). *Parking fees apply on weekends.*



GUEST SPEAKER: DR. ELSPETH MCMAHON OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR MARITIME INITIATIVES

Dr. McMahon is ODU's inaugural Associate Vice President for Maritime Initiatives. She has over twenty years of dynamic experience in the commercial, military, and education sectors of the maritime industry. McMahon is currently a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve and has extensive experience working for Military Sealift Command as a Strategic Sealift Officer.

McMahon holds an undergraduate degree in Marine Transportation from Massachusetts Maritime Academy, a master's degree in International Transportation Management from State University of New York Maritime College, a master's degree in Maritime and Air Transport Management specializing in maritime research from the University of Antwerp, Belgium, and a doctoral degree in Nautical Sciences from the University of Antwerp.

UPDATED PARKING REGULATIONS

ODU regulations now require that ALL vehicles parked on campus at any time (24/7) requires a valid ODU parking permit or hourly parking payment - NO EXCEPTIONS. Hourly parking requires immediate payment upon parking your vehicle.

There are hourly, daily, weekly or monthly rates with a virtual Permit issued by license plate.

Parking on campus is enforced using License Plate Recognition (LPR). To learn more about how LPR works, [click here](#).

For more info, please visit the website:

<https://www.odu.edu/transportation-parking-services/parking/visitor-parking>



ODU MONARCHS VS NORFOLK STATE

When: Saturday, September 5 – 6:00pm

Tribute to Lt. Col. Shah to take place.

Where: Kornblau Field at S.B. Ballard Stadium

DISCOUNT TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS!

SEND REQUEST TO TOWNNGOWNODU@YAHOO.COM



WHEN NORFOLK FLOODED, ODU COASTAL DEFENSE RESEARCH FACED AN UNEXPECTED REAL-WORLD TEST

While sitting on a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Teams call from his office at Old Dominion University, Tom Allen, Ph.D., professor and chair in the Department of Political Science and Geography, unexpectedly found himself putting experimental research to the test.



As National Weather Service alerts lit up his phone, Dr. Allen — who serves as principal investigator of the NASA Coastal Zone Digital Twin — prompted the team's artificial intelligence (AI)-powered virtual model to pull live weather alerts and radar directly from trusted sources, displaying them on an interactive map almost instantaneously.

The “digital twin” technology helps researchers predict how a real place may respond to storms and rising seas utilizing satellite observations, forecasts and tide and flood sensors. At Old Dominion University, investments in AI, geospatial technology (GIS) and high-performance computing (HPC) through Forward-Focused Digital Transformation are providing the technological foundation needed to advance this work on an even larger scale.

Though this particular technology is still experimental, it will help forecasters, hydrologists, engineers, urban planners and professionally trained emergency managers provide decision-makers with a clearer picture of what is happening — and what could happen next.

The unexpected trial demonstrated the potential of two complementary NASA-funded Old Dominion University projects totaling \$2.4 million. Together, they combine satellite observations, AI and neighborhood-scale modeling to help communities prepare for flooding, rising seas and other hazards.

Article By: [Robyn Sidersky](#) - [Read the Full Article Here](#)



JOIN THE OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY FOR A ONE-MILE WALK AND FIELD DAY GAMES!

Old Dominion University and Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University are teaming up to support the American Heart Association by hosting a one-mile Walk and Field Day Games from 12:30 pm-1:30 pm on Thursday, September 24th



Field day games include a friendly competition of Tug of War, Three-Legged Races, Giant Jenga, Cornhole, and more! Also, enjoy the *Arts for the Heart* craft station, healthy snacks, and beverages. The event also includes Hands-Only CPR demonstrations, Blood pressure screenings, and opportunities to learn about nutrition science and health. All faculty, students, staff, and community members are invited to participate. Everyone is encouraged to wear red! The first 400 participants to sign up to participate get a free t-shirt! Shuttle service will be provided between the medical campus and the main campus.

2026 ODU HEART WALK & FIELD DAY SIGN UP



@ THE LÊ PLANETARIUM

\$5 per person

www.odu.edu/planetarium



MONARCHS
GIVE BACK

FOUNDED BY PRESIDENT HEMPHILL
& FIRST LADY ROSAS HEMPHILL

WE'RE COLLECTING
150,000
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND
NEED YOUR HELP!



SCAN TO DONATE OR VOLUNTEER
odu.edu/monarchs-give-back



04 BAD MOVIE NIGHT:
SEPT KRULL (1983)



OUR COSMIC **09**
ADDRESS SEPT

16 BLACK HOLES: JOURNEY
SEPT INTO THE UNKNOWN



TOUR OF THE NIGHT SKY **23**
SEPT

30 FROM THE EARTH
SEPT TO THE UNIVERSE





AROUND TOWN

MUSIC ON THE CREEK WITH BEACH FLOYD

Saturday, September 12, 5:00pm-7:30pm

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center

Take in golden hour surrounded by good tunes and a beautiful creek view. This family-friendly outdoor event will have live music by tribute band Beach Floyd and an outdoor play area for kids to explore. Drinks and snacks will be served at the bar for purchase.



CHESAPEAKE CRAFT MARKETPLACE & COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

September 18-20

9:00am-7:30pm

Chesapeake City Park

A premier three-day outdoor celebration bringing together craft vendors, artisans, local businesses, entrepreneurs, food vendors, specialty retailers, service providers, and community organizations for an exciting weekend of shopping, entertainment, and family fun.

Visitors can explore hundreds of vendor booths featuring handcrafted goods, fashion, jewelry, home décor, artwork, specialty merchandise, gourmet foods, beauty and wellness products, boutique brands, collectibles, and unique gifts. The festival will also feature food vendors, live music, cultural performances, children's activities, artisan demonstrations, workshops, and interactive entertainment throughout the weekend.



52ND ANNUAL NEPTUNE FESTIVAL BOARDWALK WEEKEND

September 26-27

Free concerts at two stages featuring 20+ performances from local and national recording artists. On the boardwalk, you can find more than 200 artisans displaying handmade work at an Art & Craft Show. Keep walking to find 22 magnificent sand sculptures created by world-renowned international sculptors at *Neptune's International Sandsculpting Championship*.

Other weekend events include Neptune's 8k Race, Grand Parade, Dock Dogs, Touch-a-Truck, Poseidon's Playground, Volleyball Tournament, Surfing Classic, Atlantic Regatta, Youth Art Show, and MORE!



NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCES

2026 NAS Oceana Air Show

The story of America, told by those who defend it: 2026 NAS Oceana Air Show celebrates 250 years of America!

Scheduled for September 19 – 20, the show's lineup will feature the Navy's flight demonstration team, the world-famous Blue Angels, the F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team, the F-35C II Lightning Demonstration Team, and the Rhino Demonstration Team of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, plus some of the world's best aerobatic pilots.

Admission to the air show and parking are FREE. Gates open at 8 a.m.; show starts at 10 a.m. Valid photo ID is required for entry for those 18 & older.

See complete line-up at www.oceanaairshow.com



2026 Town-N-Gown Member Invite – Saturday, September 19

The Hampton Roads Squadron of the Association of Naval Aviation has opened their chalet to Town-N-Gown members (RSVP required) on Saturday only, September 19th. Admission to the chalet is approximately \$35/person, and includes food, beverages, and exclusive seating with prime viewing – right on the flightline!

RSVP to pamelamcnaught@aol.com by noon Monday, September 14th.

TNG Tour of the USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20)

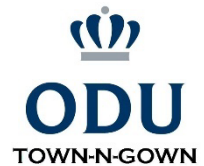
When: Saturday, October 3, Time TBD

RSVP required by September 25 - ID is necessary for entrance

Barring an emergency underway, TNG will Tour the USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20) homeported in Norfolk since Commissioning on December 1, 1987 (the hospital ship). She has an active crew of 1277 and an inactive crew of 56. In 2025, the ship executed *Continuing Promise 2025*, again emphasizing partnership-building and direct care in the Caribbean and Central and South America.



TOWN-N-GOWN NOTES



Town-N-Gown Board Meetings

Members are always welcome at the board meetings as well as attending any associated scheduled tours. Upcoming board meetings:

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 9:30am – Executive Dining Room in the ODU Webb Center

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 9:30am – Executive Dining Room in the ODU Webb Center

Town-N-Gown Wants Your Help to Continue Growing!

Please share the following link with others who appreciate our mission- developing community friendships with Hampton Roads neighbors, military, and ODU faculty/ staff/ students/families.

<https://www.odutng.com/application>

Town-N-Gown would like to welcome our newest members:

Alden & Kimberly Chiu

Kyra Jones

Anna Ryan

Thomas & Amy Gilmore

Elizabeth Marshall

John & Rachel Strunk

Laurie Harrison

Partrick Robertson

Elisabeth Tan

Town-N-Gown website is live! If you have not yet seen our website, take a minute to visit! The site has all the essential information about Town-N-Gown as well as history, photos of past events, upcoming events, and the previous issues of the TNG newsletter. Have a look at www.ODUTNG.com.



Our sincerest thanks to ***Colley Avenue Copies & Graphics*** for their ongoing support of Town-N-Gown. As a gift to our organization, Colley Avenue Copies & Graphics has generously printed and processed our flyers, programs, posters, banners, stationery, and business cards for many, many years. We are most grateful for the generous donation of their time, talent, and treasure!



TO JOIN OR RENEW

Dues for 2026-2027 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!*)

Names(s): _____

(List both names if a dual membership)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (Home): _____ (Work) _____

(Cell) _____ (Please indicate your contact preference.)

Please circle your primary affiliation for T-N-G: ***Town*** ***National Defense*** ***Gown***

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:

Jo Hayden
261 N Blake Rd
Norfolk, VA 23505

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

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