FOUNDATIONS VIP DONOR OYSTER ROAST

On October 13, ODU held a special reception for ODU Foundations’ top donors. The event happened at ODU’s Sailing Center, overlooking the Lafayette River. Monarch Dining prepared the food for the event, with oysters as the featured item. Monarch Dining and guests recycled the oyster shells from the event to help benefit the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s “Save Oyster Shells” program. The Foundation recycles, cleans, cures and places the oyster shells into oyster reefs to repopulate the Bay with more oysters.

ODU’s HEALTH PROMOTIONS’ PUMPKIN PICKING

ODU’s Health Promotion hosted their annual Pumpkin Picking Day trip on October 20. Approximately 40 ODU students and Health Promotion staff members, including Tracy Conder who is ODU’s Registered Dietitian, went to Greenbrier Farm in Chesapeake, VA. Monarch Dining donated 40 Einstein’s Bros. Bagel pumpkin muffins for guests to enjoy during their trip.

FOOTBALL TAILGATE PATIO PARTY

On October 22, Monarch Dining held a Football Tailgate Party in Broderick Dining Commons’ outdoor patio area. As guests watched games on TVs set up outside, they enjoyed a special menu that included Grilled BBQ Chicken and Philly Cheesesteak Sliders.
CELEBRITY CHEF ROBERT IRVINE

On October 21, Monarch Dining brought celebrity guest chef, Robert Irvine, for a meet-and-greet and cooking demonstration in Broderick Dining Commons. The special event was during ODU’s Family Weekend, which is an opportunity for Old Dominion University parents and family members to join their student on campus for a weekend of spirited events and quality time. Chef Irvine engaged with 700 current students, family members, alumni and faculty. A proud ODU parent who attended, Dawn Knill, stated, “Meeting Robert Irvine was definitely the driving force for us coming to campus for family weekend as initially we planned to do off-campus activities. He took genuine interest in learning about each of us during the meet and greet. His cooking demo went way beyond cooking. Thank you Monarch Dining for enhancing our experience this weekend…”

VENDOR FAIR

On October 26, Monarch Dining invited vendors and partners onto campus to interact with students and staff. They had the opportunity to inform people about their better-for-you products. Representatives also had samples and giveaways for students to enjoy. Students and faculty/staff who stopped by visited the tables and sampled the treats of Vegans and Vegetarians of ODU, Beyond Meat, Rich’s, Health Warrior Bars, Virginia Food Trust, Produce Source, Marva Maid, Java City/EcoGrounds Coffee, JuiceBar Juices, Pepsi and Lays.
FALL FRESH MARKET - ODU’S CHILDREN’S LEARNING & RESEARCH CENTER
On October 25, 2017, 100 pre-school aged children from CLRC learned about various fruits and vegetables, having a Farmer’s Market experience. The event was held near the Hamada Japanese Garden by ODU’s Diehn Fine and Performing Arts building. Using all of their senses, students were guided through 6 stations. They learned where each produce grows and in which season as they tasted 12 fruits and vegetables to include: Kiwi, Starfruit, Pomegranate, Asparagus, Artichoke, Beets, Root Vegetable Chips, Jicama, Mango, Quince paste on a cracker, Strawberries and Fresh Basil. They held the whole and halved versions of each fruit and vegetable, and felt the various textures of each. They tasted raw and cooked versions to expose their taste buds to new flavors. Culminating the class, they enjoyed warm apple cider on the lawn. A Fruit and Veggie Passport with checkboxes followed them throughout their tasting, and they received an individual pumpkin to take home.

9TH ANNUAL BREASTIVAL & FUN WALK
On October 26, ODU’s Recreation & Wellness, Student Health Services’ Health Promotion, and Women’s Center held their annual Breastival & Fun Walk on Kaufman Mall. The annual event is to honor and support those who have and are battling breast cancer. Monarch Dining supported this annual event by donating sugar cookies with pink icing and pink lemonade.

OLD DONATION SCHOOL INVITATION
Old Donation School (ODS) in Virginia Beach, a school serving academically gifted students, invited Monarch Dining’s Executive Chef, Bob Patton, to visit the school on November 1. Opened earlier this year, the $63.6 million facility has impressive features including an 800-seat theater, outdoor learning areas, and educational gardens. To support the initiative of healthy meal options, the ODS began a “scratch cooking” pilot program where fresh, made-from-scratch lunches are prepared and served. At ODS, cafeteria staff members prepare the day’s menu using fresh ingredients, with no additives or preservatives. Dr. Kelly Hedrick (Principal) personally invited Chef Bob to review their program and to offer advice based on his experience on campus, where about 90% of Monarch Dining’s residential and catered meals are made-from-scratch.
MONARCH TRADITIONS - HOMECOMING CUPCAKES & PARADE

On November 4, Monarch Dining displayed the official Monarch Cupcakes in the rotunda of Broderick Dining Commons as a Homecoming “red carpet” affair. Students hand-selected their own individually boxed cupcake with chocolate coin. The original Monarch Cupcake was served in 2009 at Freshmen Preview to all incoming students and their family members. This vanilla cupcake with blue icing and a chocolate coin was the first sweet treat touch point for entering Monarchs. The tradition to have this cupcake debuted annually on Homecoming was brought to life by SGA President, Rachel Edmonds in 2016. Rachel is currently an Undergraduate Admissions Counselor here at ODU.

Monarch Dining was also involved with Homecoming when asked to participate in judging student organizations’ parade floats. Chris Sevilla, Monarch Dining’s Marketing Assistant, was honored to be on the judges’ panel. Congratulations to Delta Zeta, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Sigma Nu who worked together to win this year’s award.

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

On November 18, Monarch Dining prepared a complimentary Thanksgiving luncheon for over 40 ODU international scholars and their families. During this luncheon, the office of Visa and Immigration Services hosted themed games and taught attendees the origins of the American Thanksgiving tradition and the historical activities that surround it. Although attendees were away from their families during this holiday time, Monarch Dining was proud to be able to bring the Thanksgiving experience to the international students and staff that are a valued part of our campus community.

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