

illuminator

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A team of Old Dominion University students took a giant leap toward space as they joined two other Virginia universities in delivering their CubeSats to NanoRacks in Houston on Feb. 26. The nano-sized cube satellites were successfully integrated into the company's commercially developed NanoRacks CubeSat Deployer (NRCSD) in preparation for launch on Northrop Grumman's Antares to the International Space Station. The launch is scheduled for April 17 from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility.

Kimberly Wright, a graduate student

National Engineers Week a great success

Cookies and cocoa with the dean, associate deans and department chairs. Field day on a cold afternoon. A motorsports demonstration in a cold and wet parking lot. A girls night out where more than 100 middle and high school girls from throughout Hampton Roads experienced hands-on engineering activities and were inspired by female engineering role models. Engineering lab tours where more than 350 high school students explored labs ranging from robotics, motorsports, unmanned aerial vehicles and marine labs; to wind tunnel, biofuels, structures, cybersecurity, modeling and simulation and more. A windy and rainy dinner cruise sponsored by the ODU chapter of the Society for Women Engineers, aboard the Spirit of Norfolk. Despite cold and rain, the Batten College of Engineering and Technology took this year's National Engineers Week (EWeek) theme, "Engineers Invent Amazing," to a new level.

DiscoverE, the national organizer of EWeek, is a formal coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies, dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers among young students and by

“Starting in undergrad, we were able to experience working across different universities, U.Va. and Virginia Tech, which both have great engineering programs,” Wright said. “To be able to work with these two universities to build, deliver and integrate is really incredible, and I think it helps people recognize that ODU is becoming one of the big state schools for the space program.”

The three CubeSats will be deployed via the NRCSD by astronauts aboard the International Space Station into orbit near-simultaneously so they can orbit together and function as a constellation. The ODU satellite, which has a drag brake to intentionally cause orbital decay, is expected to remain in orbit for at least four months. The other two satellites should orbit for up to two years at an altitude of 250 miles before burning up when they re-enter Earth’s atmosphere. The satellites will communicate data to ground stations at Virginia Tech, U.Va. and ODU for analysis using a tool being developed by Hampton students from the Atmospheric and Planetary Science Department.

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