



# OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

Department of Communication and Theatre Arts

## ODU Releases New Fall 2020 Semester Schedule

As of June 30th, Old Dominion University has rescheduled the first day of fall classes to Saturday, August 29, in light of current COVID-19 trends in Hampton Roads and Governor Northam’s recently adopted restrictions in Executive Order 68.

Old Dominion University President John R. Broderick said: “Although we had hoped to begin the semester early on August 15, several factors persuaded us to reschedule our opening. Current projections suggest that the incidence of COVID-19 will likely pose a higher risk to our region in the coming weeks.” In addition, the delay will allow Old Dominion to better prepare and expand capacity for its own COVID-19 testing center on campus.

The updated schedule, he said, maintains the framework of the University’s reopening plan, which sets out parameters for changes based on the unpredictable course of the coronavirus.

The semester will begin, as planned, with a combination of in-person, online and hybrid courses. “We believe it is critical to offer an array of options to encourage student success, particularly for those who face challenges with access to the internet and other technology,” President Broderick said.

Students planning to live on campus will receive additional information regarding move-in plans and times, as well as Weeks of Welcome activities.

Old Dominion will continue to monitor developments daily and provide timely updates. More information is available at [www.odu.edu/blueprint](http://www.odu.edu/blueprint). If you have questions, please email: [ODUCares@odu.edu](mailto:ODUCares@odu.edu).

The semester will now end on December 11 with exam week December 12-18. Classes following the Thanksgiving break will be virtual.

Please note that November 3 is now a State holiday so there will be no classes on that day.

Please adjust your syllabi to reflect these new date and format changes.

If you have already been in touch with students in your classes, please update them on the new schedule.

The Holiday Schedule is consistent with the Academic Calendar. Some employees may have to work on these days; the appropriate recognition, holiday pay and compensatory leave policies apply.

Classified employees working flexible or alternate work schedules should consult the Commonwealth’s Department of Human Resource Management Policy 4.25 - Holidays, or call ODU’s Department of Human Resources at ext. 3042 for guidance.

- AUG 29** Classes begin
- SEPT 7** Labor Day holiday (no classes held)

*There will be no fall break.*

- NOV 3** Election Day holiday (no classes held)
- NOV 25-29** Thanksgiving break (no classes held)

After Thanksgiving break, all classes will be delivered online through **DEC 11**.

- DEC 12-18** Final exams will be administered online.
- DEC 21-JAN 8** Winter Term

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- SEPT 7 Labor Day
- NOV 3 Election Day
- NOV 25 Day before Thanksgiving (4 hours – close at 12)
- NOV 26 Thanksgiving Day
- NOV 27 Day after Thanksgiving
- DEC 24 Day before Christmas
- DEC 25 Christmas Day
- DEC 28-31 End of Year Break
- JAN 1 New Year’s Day 2021

**FALL SEMESTER 2020 REOPENING PLAN**



# WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS AND PROMOTE RACIAL JUSTICE?

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION  
& THEATRE ARTS BELIEVES THAT  
COMMUNICATION IS A HUMAN  
RIGHT AND THAT PEOPLE HAVE A  
FUNDAMENTAL NEED TO HAVE THEIR  
STORIES HEARD AND EXPERIENCES  
ACKNOWLEDGED.

AS MEMBERS OF A DIVERSE  
COMMUNITY, WE HAVE A DESIRE AND  
A RESPONSIBILITY TO LISTEN TO THE  
VOICES OF ANGER, FEAR, AND SORROW  
FOR THE CURRENT AND ONGOING  
INJUSTICES FLOWING THROUGH OUR  
SOCIETY AND HELP AMPLIFY THOSE  
VOICES THAT HAVE BEEN MARGINALIZED.

WE STAND AGAINST RACISM AND  
INJUSTICE.

WE STAND FOR THE LIVES AND DREAMS  
OF OUR STUDENTS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND  
OUR COMMUNITIES.

WE PLEDGE TO WORK TOGETHER TO  
FOSTER MORE EQUITABLE FORMS OF  
COMMUNICATION THAT CONTRIBUTE TO  
A MORE JUST SOCIETY.

The Department will host an Anti-Racism workshop on Friday, August 28 from 2-3:30 PM. This workshop will discuss how we might ensure that our pedagogy actively demonstrates our commitment to anti-racism.

This will be the first of several workshops we will host throughout the year. This August workshop is intended to A) present a safe space where we can talk about uncertainties and ask questions about how to handle particular in-class instances where race and racism become central to the class discussion (whether intended or not) as well as B) share strategies for practicing anti-racism in our syllabus construction, reading selections, topic selections, and assignment choices.

This is an excellent opportunity to share ideas and come away with new perspectives, strategies and tactics. Students who participated in the Anti-racism Listening forums held over the summer want to see us do the work of ensuring that our actions match our beliefs about the value of anti-racism. We are invested and have a lot to learn about how our pedagogy can be more thoughtful and purposeful in making anti-racist moves.

# KUDOS!

**AVI SANTO**, Chair of Communication and Theatre Arts, won the University's 2020 Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award.

**DANIELLE JACKSON, ALICE JONES, and ALISON LIETZENMAYER** expanded work presented at the Departmental Research Colloquium and our work titled "From iron maiden and mother to boss and mentor: How women in Higher Education navigate communication traps and demands in the modern university" has been accepted to the 2020 Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender Annual Conference for October.

The National Communication Association accepted a work by **DANIELLE JACKSON, GARY BECK** and **ALISON LIETZENMAYER** titled "Exploratory research finds ePortfolios support college students' transition to professional life" for presentation.

**FRAN HASSENCAHL's** article "Beauty Contests for Landmine Survivors in Cambodia and Angola" has been published in Peace Review, Vol. 31, No. 3 2020. (Refereed). Hassencahl's paper "Stages of Being Foreign as Portrayed in Inch Allah Dimanche and Bent Keltoum" was presented at Northeast Modern Languages Association on April 6-10, 2020 at Boston, and her paper "Big Jon and Sparkie: Children's Radio and American Values" was accepted to the Popular Culture Association 2020 conference.

**CHRISTINA JOHNSON** earned her Certificate in University Financial Management.

**ALLISON PAGE** was awarded the 2020 Reign On Faculty Recognition Award.

**BRITTNEY S. HARRIS** was recently featured in [an interview](#) about her workshop series "Flying Solo: Your Story and Solo Performance Exploration" as part of the 2020 Women's Theatre Festival.

**ALAN CAMPBELL** was awarded ODU's 2020 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award.

Congrats to Lifespan & Digital Communication grad students **SHANA STANLEY-COSTANZO** and **CLAUDIA GARZA-MENDOZA**, who both successfully passed their MA thesis defenses this month.

Lifespan & Digital Communication alum **LILY KUNDA** is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in the Moody College of Communication at the University of Texas-Austin, and recently published an article in Flow: A Critical Forum on Media and Culture: "[Ben & Jerry's, Black Lives Matter, and the Politics of Public Statements.](#)" In her current doctoral work, Lily is investigating the way black media industry creatives integrate black narratives into content across platforms to connect with audiences.

**WYATT YOUNG**, graduate of our Film & TV Production Program, recently joined WAVY TV as a Video News Editor.

**ALLISON PAGE's** article "[Beyond White Fragility: Reflections on Race and Anti-Racism](#)" was recently published by the University of Dublin's Clinton Institute.

Lifespan & Digital Communication alum **MARKIS BOWERS** just published his first children's book "[Asking about Art!](#)" Written and illustrated by Bowers, this book explores imagination, the process of art, diversity in images, and careers in art and illustration. It's the first book of a continuing children's book series.

Lifespan & Digital Communication Graduate student **HOLLY HUTCHINSON**, who was recently awarded the Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship Award.

**BRITTNEY S. HARRIS** has been invited as a participant/collaborator to the Conversations on Applied Theatre Conference 2020 hosted by The Playwright's Lab at Hollins University. Harris also recently led an Arts@ODU Summer Series workshop "Resilient Stillness: A Theatre Workshop About Stillness and Togetherness."

Share your accomplishments [HERE!](#)

# #oduFilm *in focus*



The LGBTQ short film *Homies*, featuring the cinematography of our Film Program Director **DAVID MALLIN**, has recently been released on YouTube! An official 2019 Outfest Selection, the film was presented at the University Film & Video

Association's (UFVA) 2020 conference. Reviews are in: "It's close. It's tender. It's complete. It clearly demonstrates that Mallin is a master of this craft." [Check out Homies now!](#) This year, Professor Mallin was selected by ODU's Alumni Association as an Inspirational Faculty Member for providing "aspiring filmmakers...with countless opportunities to grow and learn with real-world applications in mind."



Film Professor **PRIYA VASHIST**'s short film screenplay *The Great Dismal* is an Official Selection of this year's Nashville Film Festival and the California Independent Film Festival. It has advanced to the quarterfinals at both

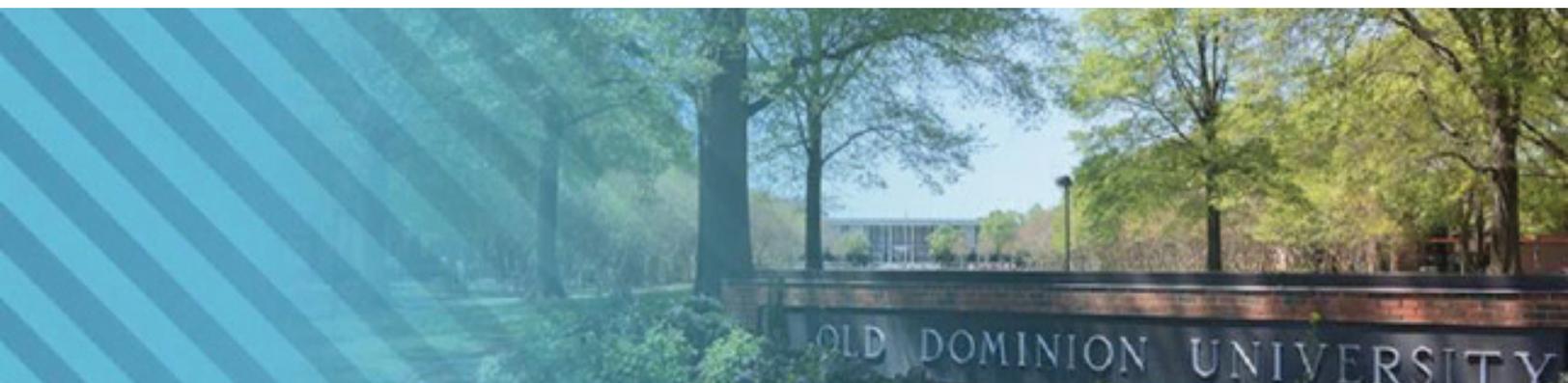
festivals. *The Great Dismal* will also be featured at the 74th annual University Film Video Association (UFVA) conference this month, competing for the grand jury prize.



Former ODU Film professor **SARA BARGER**'s short film *Little but Fierce* recently advanced to the finals of the Student Academy Awards. The film was Sara Barger's thesis project for her MFA at the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

*Little but Fierce* tells the story of Madison, a 9-year old girl from Hampton, Virginia, who is battling a rare form of brain cancer. Madison's mother, an ER nurse, is forced to turn to the black market to buy her cannabis to treat her pain, seizures and other symptoms. Sara worked on the film while she was a professor at ODU. *Little but Fierce* was one of 39 films to advance to the Student Academy Award finals out of 1,468 submissions this year. It is one of 7 films in the domestic documentary category. [See the trailer!](#)

The short film *Between the Glass* created by ODU Film students **LIZZY FOWLER** (Director/Producer), **KENNETH FORREST** (Camera/Post Sound), **D'ANDRE BARBOUR** (Editor/Production Sound), and **NEIL TURNER** (Additional Producer) recently won a Silver Telly Award. With **DIANE FINE** as the Executive Producer, the film is about the Tatum Brothers from Virginia Beach who use their background as Naval engineers to aid in designing surfboards, including custom boards for handicapped veterans. It recently aired on WHRO's "Curate" special.



# COMMUNICATION GRADS HOST A DAY OF POSITIVE ZOOMING

By Amy Matzke-Fawcett



In a time of uncertainty, hurt and growing concern, a group of communication students hopes to make everyone's day a little brighter.

Students in a graduate-level positive communication class held open Zoom hours on June 24 to allow anyone in for a bit of positive chat. Each of the students hosted an hour-long session between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the "Day of Positive Zooming."

"You can drop-in throughout the day to experience moments of happiness, kindness, compliments, message boosts, feeling heard, feeling good and more! No agenda. Not a research study. Just simple acts positive human messaging. All are welcome throughout the day," read the event's invitation.

The idea came after a class discussion of a United Kingdom project called "The Kindness Offensive." Professor Tom Socha presented to the class on that and other similar projects and encouraged the students to think about how they could bring positivity to the University, said Amanda Dunlap, a graduate student in the lifespan and digital communication master's program and a student in the class.

"I am so thrilled we are moving forward with the idea! I think given the times and especially since COVID-19 isolation, people may just need an outlet and a sense of connection, and if we can put a positive spin on it and help people feel GOOD, then we have done our job," Dunlap said. "I argued that as we are all currently or on our way to becoming professional communicators and given that we studied positive comm this summer, we are a primo team to pioneer this kind of project."

## AUG/SEPT

**8/24.**

Department Meeting.  
2-4 PM

**8/28.**

Anti Racism Faculty Workshop.  
2-3:30 PM

**8/29.**

Classes Begin.

**9/7.**

Labor Day Holiday.

**9/3.**

Adjunct Conversation.  
3-4 PM

**9/18.**

Department Meeting.  
2-4 PM