



# OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

Department of Communication and Theatre Arts

March 5, 2020

## ESPN's Jay Harris Discusses Changing Media Landscape During Visit to ODU

By Matty Madden



ESPN's Jay Harris discusses his journey in a conversation moderated by fellow Old Dominion University alum Mitch Brown in Chandler Recital Hall at ODU's Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center. Harris, who earned a bachelor's degree in speech communication in 1987, joined ESPN in February 2003. Photo Chuck Thomas/ODU

Jay Harris is a name a lot of Old Dominion University students may recognize. He is an alumnus of ODU, a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award and an anchor on ESPN's SportsCenter. Harris graduated from ODU in 1987 and was the keynote speaker for the 100th commencement ceremony in 2003. This week he visited his alma mater and appeared at several events for the Department of Communication & Theatre Arts, where he earned his degree.

In the signature event of his visit, Harris held an informal "conversation" at Chandler Recital Hall with fellow broadcasting alum Mitch Brown '15, touching on everything from his

30-plus-year career as a broadcaster to how students can break into the challenging profession.

"You're still telling stories," Harris told Brown about how the industry has changed. "There's so many modes of distribution now. It's there, you can do it. But don't forget the basics. If you can't write, if you can't tell a

story, you can't convey information, you're no good to me."

Harris grew up in Chapel Hill, N.C., which heavily influenced his decision to attend Old Dominion.

"I chose Old Dominion because it reminded me of my high school in Chapel Hill," he said. "I knew I was going to college in the Hampton Roads area because I wanted to spend time with my dad, and ODU just felt right."

Harris didn't originally intend to focus on sports. He held an interest in journalism because he had taken a

career aptitude test that suggested it as a career for him.

"I scored well in the area of interpersonal skills, and journalism was a suggested career field," he said. "I've always like to write, and talk, so I made my decision right there."

After graduating from Old Dominion, Harris worked as a weeknight news anchor for WPGH-TV in Pittsburgh, Pa., for about 12 years. When his contract was nearing its end, he decided to send his reel to a friend for a critique. "He worked at ESPN," Harris said. "He showed my tape around, and they liked me. I wasn't looking for a job in sports. I'd spent 12 years working in news. They brought me in for an audition and interview, and the rest is history."

On his visit, Harris also held a brown bag lunch with student-athletes in Communication & Theatre Arts, conducted a workshop with television broadcasting students and delivered a lecture in a new media technologies class.

# KUDOS!

**BRITNEY HARRIS** has accepted the position of Assistant Professor in our Theatre Program. Brittney has been with us this past year in a visiting role and has been an amazing contributor to our department!



**JANE BLOODWORTH ROWE, PHD** will present a paper entitled "Nature, Culture, and Narrative: A Community in the Balance" on April 18 at the 2020 Conference of the Popular Culture Association in Philadelphia.

MA-LSDC student **CAROLINA OSPINA-RODRIGUEZ** recently participated as a speaker in a Panel Session of the Global Certification Program, led by ODU's Visa and Immigration Service Advising Office. The session, where she presented with international students from Mexico, Nigeria, and Korea, centered around "Superstitions Around the World."

Adjunct Instructor **MICHAEL BIBBO** was a key creative on a recent WHRO show, [Mission Critical](#), the story of NASA Langley Research Center's contributions to the Apollo moon landing.

Please share accomplishments such as publications, awards, conference and festival acceptances, reviews, and other recognitions, and we will publish them in future bulletins:  
**[Submit content here.](#)**

## Dr. Kate Lockwood Harris to Speak on Sexual Violence on Campuses



Sexual harassment and sexism in higher education will be the focus of a campus talk later this month sponsored by our Department.

Dr. Kate Lockwood Harris, an assistant professor of organizational communication at the University of Minnesota, will speak from noon to 2 p.m.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Chesapeake/Portsmouth Room at Webb University Center. Her book, *Beyond the Rapist: Title IX and Sexual Violence on U.S. Campuses*, focuses on how colleges and universities are talking about and responding to the epidemic of sexual violence on campuses. This talk will be a springboard for a discussion about larger systems of injustice, including the overt and covert forms of sexism and sexual harassment experienced by faculty and graduate students.

Dr. Harris says, "Sexual violence is pervasive on college campuses. Whether we know it or not, every one of us is directly or indirectly impacted by assault. As humans, the ubiquity of this problem demands our collective attention." Harris's speech is intended to start a conversation among faculty members and graduate students about the kinds of sexism that faculty may encounter, adds Avi Santo, Chair of the Departments of Communication & Theatre Arts.

"Without question, sexual harassment and sexism are leading contributors to many women leaving higher education or impacting career choices, including advancement," Santo said. "This is a significant retention issue, and it is a major factor in faculty development. Yet, while most focus is on inappropriate faculty/student relationships, hostile environments for female and LGBTQ faculty are often overlooked."

"I'm interested in how colleges and universities can transform the current culture of sexual violence," Harris adds, "The problem is about educational equity and accessibility, and communication plays a crucial role in the changes higher education needs."

Lunch will be provided at the talk on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Space is limited, so please RSVP to [commdeptevents@gmail.com](mailto:commdeptevents@gmail.com).

Dr. Kate Lockwood Harris's talk is sponsored by The Departments of Communication & Theatre Arts, English, Sociology & Criminal Justice, World Languages & Cultures, Philosophy & Religious Studies, Women's Studies, The Institute for the Humanities, The College of Arts & Letters, The Center for Faculty Development, and The Office of Faculty Diversity & Retention.

**3/5.** Free LIVE Recording of *Imagine That!* 7-9 PM in the Goode Theatre.

**3/8.** Free screening of the film *Brave Girls*, followed by a discussion with Executive Producer Deborah Wallace and Special Guest, Ellen Carver, Executive Director of Girls on the Run.

**3/9-3/14.** ODU Spring Break

**3/17, 3/19, & 3/20.** Job candidates on campus.

**3/23.** Dance Program Artist-in-Residence Rebecca R. Levy will perform at 12:25 PM in Diehn 1202.

**3/24.** Dr. Lockwood-Harris' presentation on Title IX and Sexual Violence on US Campuses in the Chesapeake/ Portsmouth Room, Webb Center, at 12:00-2:00 PM.

**3/26.** Brown Bag Series. 12:30-1:30 PM in the University Theatre (1002). Jim Lyden, MFA and Dr. Fran Hassencahl will be presenting.

**3/27.** Department meeting. 2-4 PM in BAL 9024. Followed by happy hour (TBD) from 4:30-6:00 PM. All are welcome at happy hour, including adjuncts and grad students.

## **BROWN BAG WORKS-IN-PROGRESS Lunch Series Coming Up March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Our Brown Bag series continues, where our faculty present works in progress to their colleagues for the purposes of a) sharing their research, b) generating conversation, and c) building community. Presenters at the Brown Bag series offer short informal 10-12-minute presentations of ongoing projects and then we open the floor up to questions. This is a great way to learn about what colleagues and professors in other parts of the department are doing.

We always look to pair a person on the COMM side with an artist on the DANCE/FILM/THEATRE side. All are welcome (and we also provide a virtual option), including grad students (and select undergrads if the presenter wants them there).

Our fourth Brown Bag will be in the University Theatre (1002) at 12:30-1:30 PM. **JIM LYDEN, MFA** and **DR. FRAN HASSENCAHL** will be presenting. Topics will be forthcoming.

### **Junior Faculty Research Mentoring Program for 2020-21**

The Office of Research invites submissions for the 2020-2021 Junior Faculty Research Mentoring Program (JFRMP). The JFRMP program supports ODU faculty-to-faculty mentoring by pairing a senior faculty member with a track record of extramural funding, and a junior tenure-track faculty member who wants to be mentored and commits to submitting a competitive funding proposal at the end of the mentoring period. The focus of mentoring activities must be on identifying funding sources and the development of a strong extramural grant proposal, not on increasing expertise/ recognition within the discipline.

Mentees must be tenure-track assistant professors with fewer than 4 years at this rank, who are at least two years away from a tenure decision at the time of application.

There are two categories of JFRMP awards, Track I and Track II:

- Track I supports faculty members in disciplines where competitive extramural grant funding of \$250,000 (in direct costs over the life of the award) or more is available.
- Track II supports faculty members in disciplines where competitive extramural grant funding of \$250,000 or more is not a viable option. Track II applications require the advance approval of the Director of Research Development.

Submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. on March 23, 2020. For detailed information on the Junior Faculty Research Mentoring Program please visit [this link](#).

# FREE LIVE recording

ODU's Goode Theatre | March 5th | 7pm

Part Game Show,  
Part Improv!

*Imagine That!* is a  
phenomenon that you  
truly shouldn't miss.

*Team Challenges*  
*Creative Tasks*  
*Audience Votes*



Sponsored by the Department of Communication & Theatre Arts

upcoming events



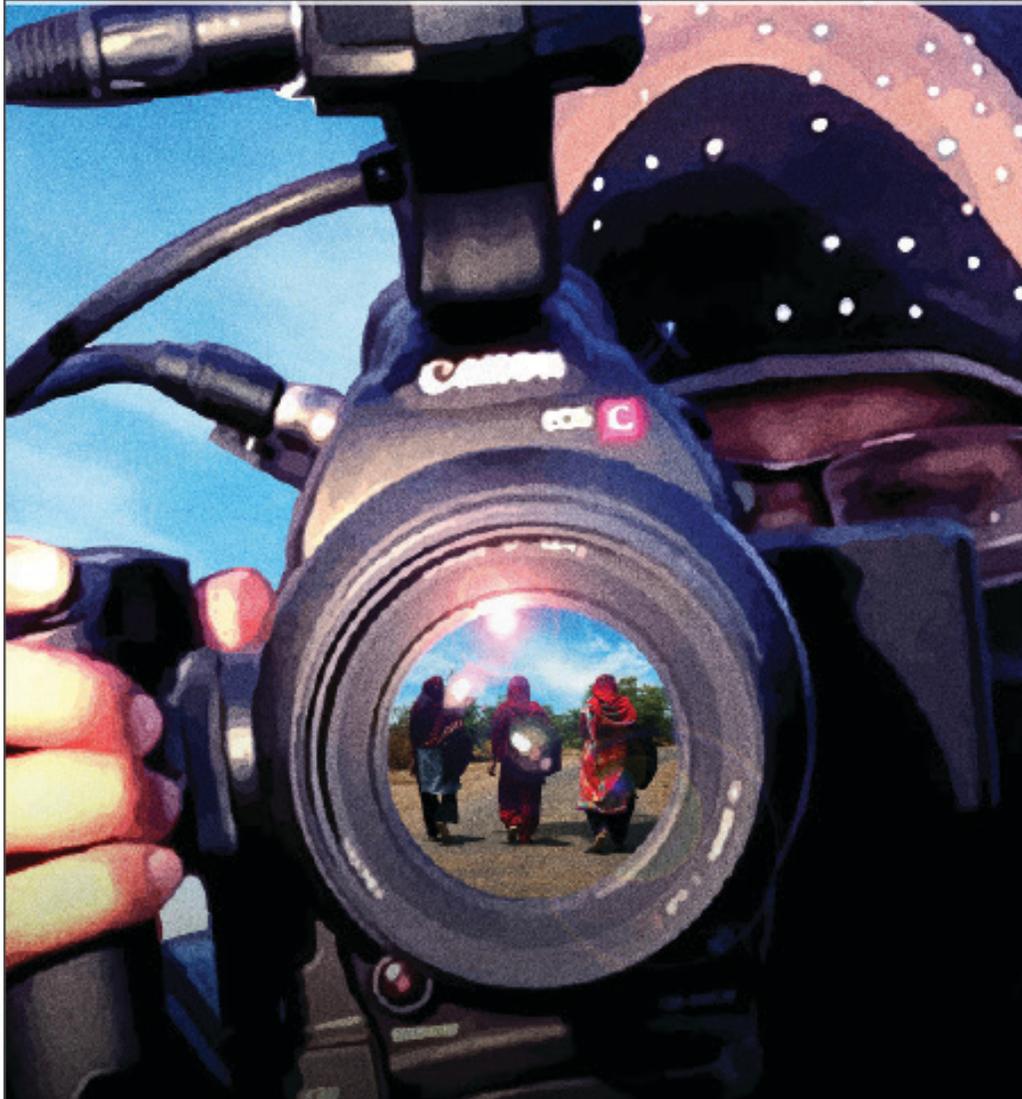
**OLD DOMINION  
UNIVERSITY**

Department of Communication and Theatre Arts

**ODU FILM presents**

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00-7:00 PM**



# UNI VER SITY THEATRE

**47th Street &  
Hampton Blvd,  
Norfolk**

A documentary  
feature depicting  
the feminist battle  
between education  
and arranged  
marriage in India.

Followed by  
a discussion with  
Executive Producer  
DEBORAH WALLACE  
and  
Special Guest,  
ELLEN CARVER,  
Executive Director  
of Girls on the Run

## **BRAVE GIRLS**

A FILM BY AYA ARTS AND MEDIA  
WITH **SUBLIME MADNESS PRODUCTIONS**

AYA ARTS AND MEDIA WITH SUBLIME MADNESS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS 'BRAVE GIRLS' DIRECTED BY YASHASWI DESAI & ELLIE WALTON  
PRODUCER TANISHA CHRISTIE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DEBORAH WALLACE EDITOR MAGEE MCLIVINE  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ELLIE WALTON MUSIC SAN MCCORNALLY

**CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY WITH US!**



MONDAY  
MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup>

12:00-2:00 PM

Department of Communication and Theatre Arts

presents

TITLE

X

# Sexual Violence on U.S. Campuses

A Presentation & Discussion with  
Kate Lockwood Harris, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Organizational  
Communication at the University of  
Minnesota, Twin Cities

Author of *Beyond the Rapist: Title IX and  
Sexual Violence on US Campuses* from  
Oxford University Press.

Consultant to organizations to develop  
violence prevention programs.



CHESAPEAKE/PORTSMOUTH ROOM,  
WEBB CENTER @ 12 PM

Lunch Provided • Space is limited - RSVP to [commdeptevents@gmail.com](mailto:commdeptevents@gmail.com)

Sponsored by:

The Departments of Communication & Theatre Arts, English, Sociology  
& Criminal Justice, World Languages & Cultures, Philosophy & Religious  
Studies, Women's Studies, The Institute for the Humanities,  
The College of Arts & Letters, The Center for Faculty Development,  
and The Office of Faculty Diversity & Retention.



# **Rebecca R. Levy**

**In Residence Mar 20-24**

**Presentation Mar 24, 12:25 pm, Diehn 1202**



Rebecca Levy serves as Director & Professor of Dance at Florida State College at Jacksonville. Through this role she recently earned a 40 Under 40 award from The Jacksonville Business Journal, and was named Outstanding Faculty of the Year in 2016. She was recently awarded a 2019 Individual Artist Grant by Community First Bank for her new work, to premiere in 2020, investigating mental illness.

In 2012, she co-founded and became artistic director of Jacksonville Dance Theatre, a professional contemporary modern dance company, and she has been working to change the art culture of the city ever since.

Recently she gave a TEDx talk titled “Engaging A Movement” about her experiences founding JDT and advocating for professional dance in Jacksonville.

Letters in the Mail, her humorous new work-in-progress, explores the sensation of loneliness while surrounded by others, and methods adopted to escape the sadness of feeling like there is no one who understands.

**BROWN BAG**  
**WORKS-IN-PROGRESS**  
**LUNCH SERIES**



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**09/24: Brittany Harris, MFA and Dr. Annemarie Navar-Gill (University Theatre 1002)**

**10/31: Priya Vashist, MFA and Dr. Ted Gournelos (BAL 9024)**

**11/26: Marilyn Marloff, MFA and Dr. Victoria Jennings (Diehn 1202)**

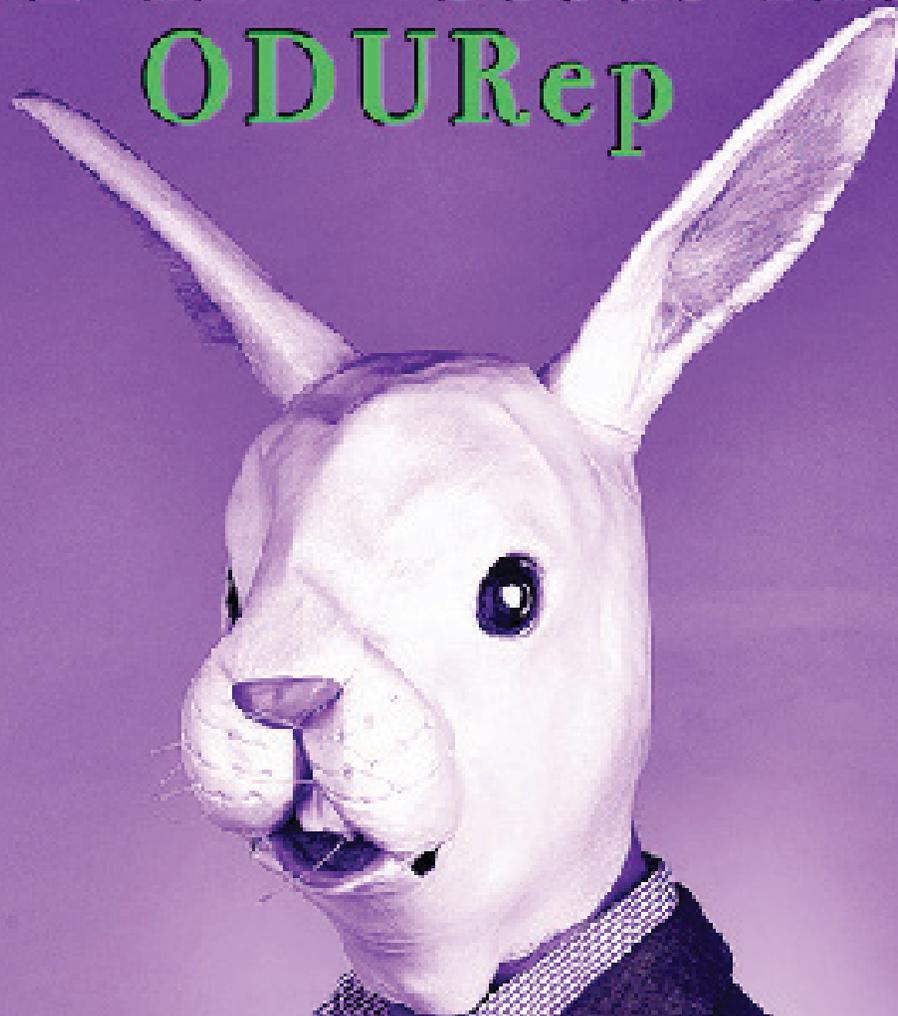
**01/30: Dr. Brendan O'Hallarn and Dr. Danielle Jackson (BAL 9024)**

**02/27: Jim Lyden, MFA and Dr. Fran Hassencahl (University Theatre 1002)**

**03/26: Dr. Carolina Conte and TBA (Diehn 1202)**

**04/23: Dr. Kyle Nicholas and Carla Harrell (BAL 9024)**

April 2-12 - Goode Theatre  
ODURep



# HARVEY

a comedy by Mary Chase  
directed by Chris Hanna

[ODUArtsTix.com](http://ODUArtsTix.com)