Colombia Native Grateful for Opportunity ODU Provided

After receiving her letter of acceptance from Old Dominion University, Carolina Rodriguez-Ospina sat in her car and cried. In fact, she wept during her entire commute home. “I cried during those two hours, thanking God for the acceptance,” she said.

For Rodriguez-Ospina, who graduates in May from the College of Arts and Letters with her masters in lifespan and digital communications, it was the start of a life-changing journey. Born and raised in Bogota, Colombia, Rodriguez-Ospina is the oldest of three siblings. Her parents, both accountants, “encouraged us to study hard, work hard and be good people,” she said.

They were also urged to represent Colombia - a country often portrayed as riddled with guerrilla warfare and violent drug trade - in a better light. “We grew up with the mentality that people have to change how other people see our country,” she said. “In reality we have many things to offer as a country, like tourism, great food and warm, friendly people.”

Rodriguez-Ospina took the traditional path. She graduated from college, married, got a job and had children. Like most working mothers, she struggled with time and a work/life balance. Adding to her stress was the two-hour commute each way to her marketing job at a health insurance company.

A different job was out of the question. “In Colombia, 40 is too old to get another job,” she said. “And in Colombia, everyone wants to keep their job because the employment opportunities are scarce.”

When Rodriguez-Ospina’s parents moved to the United States five years ago to join their son, their other daughter and son-in-law, she was left without child-care backup. “I was alone,” she said. “And without the warmth from being surrounded by a family, which is our Latino tradition.” She was also concerned about her two girls, Juanita and Salome. “When you have kids, you start to worry about them and their future,” she said. “I wanted for them to have a good life, a better life and more opportunities.”

She began applying for English-language programs in the United States, with the hope of transitioning to a master’s program. Then the letter from ODU arrived. She, along with her husband and children, left everything in Colombia to start a new life in Smithfield, four blocks from her parent’s house.

There were cultural differences, of course. “We are Latinos, we tend to kiss and hug everyone,” Rodriguez-Ospina said. “We have big families and being around grandparents is common in our culture.” But Rodriguez-Ospina has grown to love Smithfield. “This place is awesome,” she said. The first step was hard financially, but a great investment. “I took all my savings and I spent them on the first English course in the first semester,” she said.

“The intensive English program was an excellent experience. They were so welcoming and taught us, not only about the language, but also about American culture.” After the second semester, and just after the pandemic began, she ran out of financial resources. The lifespan and digital communication program helped her with out-of-state funding, in part, because of her good grades. “I will always be grateful for this help,” she said.

She was also offered a graduate assistantship with Amy Matzke-Fawcett in the Dean’s Office in the College of Arts & Letters. “I was really happy to have that opportunity, and to have her for my boss,” Rodriguez-Ospina said. Transitioning to student mode has been challenging. “The hardest part has been coming back to school after so many years and getting used to research, reading, homework and exams,” she said. “The best part is that you feel young again.”

Rodriguez-Ospina ended up loving many of the thought-provoking courses offered in the communications curriculum, especially the children’s communication theory and research class taught by Thomas Socha. That led to something she has been doing a lot of lately: Watching children’s television shows.

Her master’s project is a content analysis about how characters with disabilities are portrayed in children’s programming. She has been watching 12 shows, including those on PBS, Netflix, Disney and Nickelodeon. “It is an important and touching work that showcases the power of American television in educating the world’s children, and us all, how to create an inclusive world where all are welcomed, where all are valued and where all voices are heard,” Socha said.

As her educational journey comes to a close, Rodriguez-Ospina is appreciative of her experience at ODU. “I love how the University treats the students as a family,” she said. “It’s not like you are a student paying for your education and then ‘goodbye.’ It is like you are now part of the University family.”

By Sherry DiBari | April 30, 2021 Original article link

Lifespan & Digital Communication MA Graduate Carolina Rodriguez-Ospina
Congratulations to our faculty and students on their many recent accomplishments!

External Awards & Recognitions:

ALISON LIETZENMAYER
Selected to lead a seminar for the NCA Institute for Faculty Development this summer, or what is also called the “Hope Conference,” held virtually July 19–23, 2021.

ALLISON PAGE
Awarded a 2021 Summer Grant Writing Award to develop a grant proposal for the ACLS-Mellon Foundation and others.

OUR THEATRE PROGRAM faculty, staff, and students received recent honors from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) for their work on Patrick Mullins & Priya Vashist’s devised work Do You Know Me?

STUDENT NOMINEES
Nomination makes the student eligible to compete at the Kennedy Center Regional Festival for scholarships and professional opportunities.

SAVANNA BILLOT for Stage Management
JAMIA GORDY for Performance
MARI RUSSELL for Performance

FACULTY CERTIFICATES OF MERIT
The following people have been awarded Meritorious Achievement Awards for Excellence in their field:

PRIYA VASHIST - for Excellence in Film Editing

University Recognitions:

BRITTNEY HARRIS
John Broderick Diversity Champion nominee.

JAMES MORROW
John Broderick Diversity Champion nominee.

MYLES MCNUTT
Awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor

Awards continued on Page 3
Awards cont.

College Student Awards:

STEPHANIE MOYERS
Awarded the 2021 Outstanding Student in Dance for the College of Arts & Letters.

BRANDI SHOOK
Awarded the 2021 Outstanding Student in Theatre for the College of Arts & Letters.

College Faculty Summer Research Fellowship Recipients:

FRAN HASSENCAHL
Awarded a College of Arts & Letters Summer Research Fellowship to continue research into political cartoons about the COVID-19 epidemic and metaphorical evocations of combatting the virus as a form of warfare.

ANNEMARIE NAVAR-GILL
Awarded a College of Arts & Letters Summer Research Fellowship to conduct interviews for her monograph about the convergence of the entertainment and data analytics industries.

College Faculty Award Nominees:

BRENDAN O’HALLARN
Joel Lewis Award for Mentoring Nominee

MYLES MCNUTT
2021 Robert Stern Award for Teaching Excellence Nominee

VICKY FINK
Outstanding Adjunct Nominee

MATTHEW FRENCH
Outstanding Adjunct Nominee

Department Awards & Recognitions:

GARY BECK
Awarded a Summer 2021 Workshop Development Award to develop a workshop focused on how to address grad student curricular needs in online asynchronous courses.

Awarded a Summer 2021 Research Award to do research toward your essay on resiliency and immigrant families.

CAROLINA CONTE
Awarded a Summer 2021 Research Award to do research toward the film project, Women’s Shakespeare Club.

DANCE PROGRAM
Awarded a Summer 2021 Workshop Development Award to develop a workshop focused on how to update the Dance Program’s mission and curriculum.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE - ALISON LIETZENMEYER, BRITTNEY HARRIS, DANIELLE JACKSON, JAMES MORROW, ANNEMARIE NAVAR-GILL, ALLISON PAGE, AND PRIYA VASHIST
Awarded a Summer 2021 Workshop Development Team Award to develop a workshop focused on how to make our courses more inclusive and invested in anti-discriminatory pedagogical practices.

Awarded a Summer 2021 Curriculum Development Award to develop a module for online course offerings addressing inclusion and identity.

TED GOURNELOS
Awarded a Summer 2021 Workshop Development Award to develop a workshop focused on helping program directors better strategize on how to promote our programs with prospective students and stakeholders.

CHRIS HANNA
Awarded a Summer 2021 Research Award to develop a stage play of Taking Measure, which adapts William Shakespeare’s Measure to Measure to address issues pertinent to the #MeToo movement.

FRAN HASSENCAHL
Awarded a Summer 2021 Research Award to do research toward depictions of fatherhood in children’s books.

JIM LYDEN
Awarded a Summer 2021 Curriculum Development Award to develop a course on creating virtual environments.

Awards continued on Page 4
Awards cont.

JAMES MORROW
Awarded a Summer 2021 Research Award to develop a dance film that uses the format of choose your own adventure novels to highlight power imbalances among dancers and audiences.

ANNEMARIE NAVAR-GILL
Awarded a Summer 2021 Workshop Development Award to develop a workshop focused on how to move away from traditional assessment methods in our classes.

BRENDAN O’HALLARN
Awarded a Summer 2021 Curriculum Development Award to develop a template for offering collaborative courses with industry professionals and expand upon three initial offerings.

ALLISON PAGE
Awarded a Summer 2021 Research Award to do research toward her next monograph on policing technologies.

REESE PIERCEALL
Awarded the 2021 Outstanding Adjunct for CommONLINE Teaching Excellence.

MEGAN THOMPSON
Awarded a Summer 2021 Research Award to develop a choreographed work focusing on dancing and the aging body.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SHARE YOUR RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS HERE!

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY CHECK-IN/OUT NOTICE!

If you checked out any technology equipment last Spring/Fall, please return the item(s) to the main office and sign/date your return form. Unless you need the item(s) to teach this summer, they will need to be returned by August 9.

In preparation for a return to campus in the Fall, if you do not have a built-in camera or built-in microphone on your computer, and/or do not have a set of headphones, please let Andrea Battle-Coffer know at your earliest convenience.

A draft report of the Program Prioritization Initiative Task Force is available online. If you would like to provide feedback to the task force, please send it to prioritization@odu.edu by SEPTEMBER 1. The task force will convene in September to review the feedback and finalize the report.
Filmmaker Trevor Banks ’09, is using crowdfunding to finish production of *Give The Drummer Some*, a feature-length documentary about the life and influence of drumming pioneer Clyde Stubblefield.

Banks raised nearly $21,000 on the crowdfunding platform, Seed&Spark. The fundraising campaign ended May 5.

Stubblefield, the former drummer for James Brown, transcended the genre of funk music that he helped pioneer.

“The revolutionary breakbeat he played on a record called *Funky Drummer* made Stubblefield one the most sampled musicians in history, and in turn became a cornerstone during the evolution of hip-hop,” Banks explained.

Stubblefield was named as one of the greatest drummers in history by Rolling Stone magazine and LA Weekly.

Banks, who majored in Communication with an emphasis on film and video production, came to Old Dominion University on full soccer scholarship.

“For me, I couldn’t pass up on the opportunity to not only compete for a top-20 program in the nation, but simultaneously earn an education in a field that I was equally passionate about pursuing,” he said.

At that time, the film department was just beginning to expand.

“It was clear to me that the faculty and University were committed to creating an elite program that can be categorized as one of the best in the country,” he said. “I gained a foundational understanding of what it takes to be successful in this industry, and lessons I still apply in my work to this day.”

“It is exciting to see our students find success in their chosen professions and to do work they find meaningful,” said Avi Santo, associate professor and chair of the Department of Communications and Theatre Arts. “Mr. Banks’ accomplishments will inspire a future generation of documentarians and non-fiction storytellers.”

Banks began the project on Stubblefield in 2015. In addition to capturing some of Stubblefield’s final interviews, performances and medical treatments, Banks filmed interviews with some of Stubblefield’s former bandmates including John “Jabo” Starks, Fred Wesley, Fred Thomas and funk icon George Clinton.

“ODU cinema and TV production majors learn not only the artistic and technical craft to become documentary filmmakers, but also the research skills necessary to create documentary films,” said David Mallin, director of ODU’s Film Program and Associate Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts.

Stubblefield died from kidney failure in 2017. “I’m beyond committed to telling his story and ensuring that his legacy as a pioneer and innovator becomes cemented within American music history,” Banks said.

*By Sherry DiBari | May 8, 2021*  
*[Original article link]*
STUDENTS WILL ENGAGE DISABILITY IN A VARIETY OF SOCIOPOLITICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS, INCLUDING THEIR OWN PERSONAL VALUES AND BELIEFS AS THEY RELATE TO DISABILITY, AND EVALUATE THESE AS THEY EXPLORE DISABILITY AND SOCIETY. THIS COURSE WILL EXPLORE HOW THE PUBLIC VIEWS DISABLED INDIVIDUALS, AND HOW THEY VIEW THEMSELVES. STUDENTS WILL LEARN TO ANALYZE HOW DISABILITY IS PORTRAYED IN JOURNALISM, PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM, COMIC ART, SOCIAL NETWORKS. THE IMPACT OF STIGMA ON MASS MEDIA IMAGERY AND REPRESENTATION WILL BE EXPLORED. A MAJOR EMPHASIS OF THIS COURSE WILL BE THE USE OF MEDIA AND ITS EFFECT ON DISABLED INDIVIDUALS, THEIR CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITY, AND SELF-REPRESENTATION.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT PROFESSOR AMANDA WROTEN AWROTEN@ODU.EDU
This course will investigate how Asian Americans have been depicted in popular culture and its impact on Asian American communities, and how Asian American filmmakers and activists have created media to challenge/document/educate/unite against misrepresentation.

Students will work toward curating a film festival focused on Asian American cinema to be held at the end of the semester. There will be an online synchronous option for grad students.
FALL 2021

COMM 695
Media Activism and Social Justice

THURSDAYS
4:20 PM - 7:00 PM

For more information about this course, contact DR. ALLISON PAGE • apage@odu.edu
SUMMER 2021 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

MAYMESTER May 11-28

Session 1—May 17 through June 26 (6 weeks)
Session 2—June 28 through August 7 (6 weeks)
Session 3—May 17 through August 6 (12 weeks - includes short/condensed courses)

Session schedule includes exam dates.
Final exams for Distance Learning classes are administered during the last class meeting.

See http://www.odu.edu/academics/calendar/summer/approved-summer-schedule for the on-campus class meeting schedule.

REMINDER: Classes are NOT dropped for non-payment or non-attendance!

Jun 30  Recommended deadline to apply for graduation in December
Jul 6   SUMMER TUITION DEADLINE

MAYMESTER (3 weeks)
Accelerated classes, meet May 11-28
Class meeting times are 3½ hour slots, Tuesday-Friday each week

May 13 Deadline to register/add Maymester classes
May 20 Last day to withdraw from Maymester
May 31 Maymester degree conferral date (pending completion of all degree requirements)

Session 1 (6 weeks) (1st half of summer)
May 17 Classes begin
19 Deadline to register/add classes
Last day to drop with no grade assigned
20 Beginning of period to withdraw from classes with grade “W” (Sess 1)
31 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)
Jun 8 Last day to withdraw from Session 1 classes*
18 Juneteenth observed (no classes)
25-26 Exams for classes that meet MTWRF
For classes that do not meet every day, final exams will be held during the last class meeting.
Jun 29 Session 1 degree conferral date (pending completion of all degree requirements)

Session 2 (6 weeks) (2nd half of summer)
Jun 28 Classes begin
30 Deadline to register/add classes
Last day to drop with no grade assigned
Jul 1 Beginning of period to withdraw from classes with grade “W” (Sess 2)
5 Independence Day Holiday (no classes)
20 Last day to withdraw from Session 2 classes*
Aug 6-7 Exams for classes that meet MTWRF
For classes that do not meet every day, final exams will be held during the last class meeting.
9 Session 2 degree conferral date (pending completion of all degree requirements)

Session 3 (12 weeks and short/condensed courses)
Short courses must be dropped before the first day of class for each course.

May 17 Classes begin
19 Deadline to register/add classes
(NO drop/add online after May 19)
20 Beginning of period to withdraw from classes with grade “W” (Sess 3)
31 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)
Jun 18 Juneteenth observed (no classes)
Jun 24 Last day to withdraw from Session 3 classes*
Jul 5 Independence Day Holiday (no classes)
Aug 6 Session 3 ends
Final exams will be held during last class meeting.
9 Session 3 degree conferral date (pending completion of all degree requirements)

Aug 27 Final deadline for electronic submission of theses/dissertations to ProQuest for August 2021 graduates
Aug 27 Summer degree conferral date (no commencement ceremony)

* See www.odu.edu/finance for summer tuition and refund dates and information

Aug 28 Fall classes begin
See Fall Academic Calendar for important dates and deadlines

Old Dominion University
Office of the University Registrar
Rollins Hall 1009, 757-683-4425
register@odu.edu
www.odu.edu/registrar
**FALL 2021 ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

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**April 2021**

Mar 29:
- Pre-registration for Fall 2021 classes, degree-seeking students registered Spring 2021 only (time tickets required)

Apr 2:
- Open registration for Fall classes 2021 begins, NO time ticket needed

June

- Recommended deadline for applications for graduation December 2021

**August**

27:
- Final deadline for electronic submission of theses/dissertations to ProQuest for August 2021 graduates
- Summer degree conferral date (no ceremony)

28:
- Fall classes begin, Sessions 1 and 2
- Deadline to apply for instate tuition rates for Fall 2021

**September**

6:
- Labor Day Holiday (no classes)
- Deadline to drop classes with no grade or financial penalty
- Deadline to register or add classes
- Last day to designate a course for audit or pass/fail

7:
- Beginning of period to withdraw with grade W, Session 1 and 2 classes

8:
- Last day to withdraw and receive 50% tuition refund or credit

October

1:
- Last day to withdraw from Session 2 classes without instructor’s signature (grade W assigned)

9-12:
- Fall Holiday (No Classes Sat-Tues)
- Deadline for electronic submission of doctoral dissertations to ProQuest for Session 2 graduates

14:
- Session 2 classes end
- Session 3 classes begin
- Deadline for electronic submission of masters’ theses to ProQuest for Session 2 graduates

21:
- Degree conferral date Session 2

24:
- Deadline to drop Session 3 classes with no grade or financial penalty

25:
- Beginning of withdraw period Session 3 classes

27:
- Last day to withdraw and receive 50% tuition refund or credit (Session 3 classes)

Office of the University Registrar
Rollins Hall 1009, 757-683-4425
register@odu.edu
www.odu.edu/registrar

**ABBREVIATED SPRING SCHEDULE**

**WINTER TERM (Winter Term is part of Spring 2022)**

Dec 20-Jan 7
- Accelerated classes meeting online (including over holiday break).
- Dec 29 Holiday, Jan 1 Holiday

January 2022

8:
- Spring classes begin

15-17:
- Martin Luther King Holiday - no classes

March

7-12:
- Spring Holiday

29:
- Last day to withdraw from Session 1 classes without permissions

April

25:
- Spring classes end

26:
- Reading Day

27:
- Exams begin

May

4:
- Exams end

6, 7:
- Spring Commencement Exercises

7:
- Spring Degree Conferral Date