



FALL SEMESTER EDITION

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September went by rather quickly and now October is upon us. The eventual Fall Break is not too far away. Nonetheless, stay vigilant. All that should be scary is your costume, not your workload. Within this issue you will find two graduate student interviews, news of upcoming workshops, and opportunities for networking, growth, and reflection. Let us know your thoughts! -Xavier-Lewis Palmer

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WATCH THIS DISTANCE STUDENT MAKE STRIDES!

MONICA REYES (PH.D. ENGLISH STUDIES) IS A NON-TRADITIONAL DISTANCE STUDENT WITH A STRONG PASSION IN MAKING SURE THAT THE VULNERABLE AMONG US ARE HEARD. FOLLOW HER EXPERIENCE AND THAT OF MORE SUMMER GRADUATE AWARD WINNERS IN UPCOMING ISSUES.

What made Old Dominion University stand out?

ODU is one of the few reputable institutions that has a distance PhD program in English Studies. This non-traditional format allows me to stay in my native south Texas with my family, work full time in the field as a university lecturer, while pursuing a high quality terminal degree. I was excited that the program operates synchronously with the face-to-face students in Norfolk. Our seminars are discussion based, and I meet with my faculty online often, and I stay in touch with my cohort on a variety of online platforms. What this means is that this degree is not a "convenient" or "easy" way to study. It is highly rigorous! In fact, many of my classmates hold down full-time teaching jobs, have families, and still manage to challenge me in each class meeting and do exciting work in the field.



About my dissertation project:

When arriving to the U.S, people seeking asylum consider their own narratives the most powerful resource that they have; after all, so much of their future rests on how "credible" their fear-based stories are. Without evidence, such as documentation or photographs, a person seeking asylum status may quickly come to understand that their journey experience and how they share that experience with those in power is their only hope in literally moving forward. "Shelter Rhetorics: Understanding Narrative Pathways & Assemblages of the Asylum Process" explores how an emergency shelter on the south Texas border operates as an influential space for people seeking asylum while composing their asylum narratives. Ultimately, I aim to understand how people who seek asylum and those who work with them within liminal spaces like shelters, navigate the post-colonial pressures of writing compelling asylum narratives. I hope through this project to significantly demonstrate the tensions between public and private asylum narratives, and the analysis may also suggest the necessity of policies which are inclusive of nuanced experiences of persecution. After receiving the ODU Graduate Summer Award, I was able to finish interviewing shelter clients and staff, for a total of 17 interviews, representing people from 9 countries and 6 geographical regions. My emerging analysis has helped me draft a poster presentation for the upcoming International Conference on Border Studies, at the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley in October of this year. Also, the research helped inform an initiative in my community for writing teachers to provide tutoring in English, Spanish, and French for shelter clients seeking asylum who need assistance composing required narratives on their asylum applications.

What do you feel could be improved at ODU?

I think that given the fact that ODU has a reputation for offering a variety of online programs, more merit-based scholarships should be available for students who study via distance, especially graduate students. We are doing exciting research, and awarding such projects will draw more graduate students to ODU.

MONICA REYES (PH.D. ENGLISH STUDIES) - CONTINUED

Who are some guiding or influential figures in your life?

Aside from the clients and staff at the shelter where I study and volunteer, I have been greatly impacted by the graduate faculty I've worked with at ODU. My chair, Dr. Delores Phillips is a loyal mentor who is by far and away more present as a mentor than many traditional faculty I've worked with in previous academic programs. Dr. Staci Defibaugh mentored me through piloting my dissertation research, and Dr. Julia Romberger has patiently provided feedback and asked me the challenging questions about my scholarship I need to hear. Perhaps most of all, Dr. Erika Frydenlund from ODU's Virginia Modeling, Analysis & Simulation Center has become a mentor and friend. While she is not an English faculty member, she has been willing to work with me throughout my project, and her research with displaced populations has made her an invaluable voice in my life as a scholar and activist. Since the first day I met her, she has encouraged me, sat in on IRB meetings on my behalf, treated me with respect, and motivated me to collaborate with research participants in ways that I may have never imagined.



Group Photo shows Monica Reyes [center] with clients in the English Language Learners class at a shelter

What is a funny experience that you have had at ODU?

As a distance student, I and the other students who use webcam to participate in seminars often get interesting views of our classmates' home or office spaces. There have been numerous times where our pets (especially cats) want all the attention during class sessions and walk, nap, or scratch in front of our webcam. It is funny how accustomed we are to this, and we are able to hold deep philosophical discussions while "Fluffy" is strutting her stuff for the class.

3RD ANNUAL GRADUATE SUMMER AWARD PROGRAM RFP

Old Dominion University's Graduate School in partnership with the Office of Research is pleased to announce the return of the Graduate Summer Award Program (GSAP). Open to graduate students from across the University, the GSAP is a competitive program that supports a range of original graduate student scholarship, including basic research, field study, data analysis, performances and exhibitions, and community-based learning initiatives. The program can be used to support thesis or dissertation projects or other capstone projects at the master's or doctoral level. The scope of the proposed project should allow the graduate student to produce a measurable research or scholarly product by the end of a minimum of six uninterrupted weeks during the summer months.

Graduate students wishing to apply for this award must identify and approach a faculty member to serve as a mentor during the tenure of the program award. The faculty member may advise the student in creating a strong project proposal, explain the expectations for scholarly activity, supervise the scholarly activity, and provide advice from the proposal stage to the completion of the final report. However, the faculty member is not permitted to produce work on behalf of the student. Students applying for the award will be the primary investigators for these projects. It is expected that a graduate student with this funding will produce a work with original scholarship. The award is not for lab assistant or graduate assistant duties that support a faculty project. **Please be on the lookout for a request for proposals to follow later this month.**

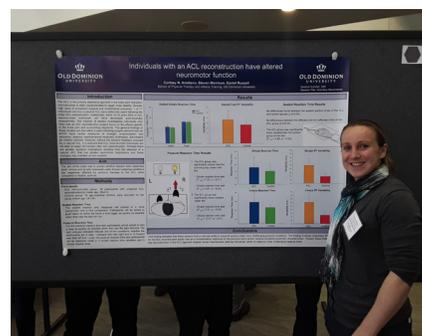
odu.edu/graduateschool

GRADUATE RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT DAY

The Graduate School will be hosting the eighth annual Graduate Research Achievement Day (GRAD) on Thursday, April 9, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Webb University Center. GRAD is a great opportunity for students to showcase their research for the campus community while networking with other students and learning about the great diversity of research and scholarship at Old Dominion University.

Students interested in participating must submit a poster proposal that consists of the graduate student's name, any co-authors, a project title, and a 300-word maximum abstract. The proposal must be submitted no later than Friday, February 7, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. to <https://bit.ly/2mfNn92>. Proposals that do not follow the formatting requirements or are submitted late run the risk of not being accepted.

Students in disciplines that do not normally undertake poster presentations and who would like to participate may contact Mr. Xavier-Lewis Palmer, Graduate Administrative Assistant for the Graduate School, for assistance at xpalmer@odu.edu. Distance students are also welcome to submit proposals. Please note, however, that while faculty advisors, undergraduates, or other non-graduate students may be co-authors of proposals, they cannot be first authors or present the poster at the event.



Office of Research Fall 2019 Workshops

STRATEGIES FOR BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

10/24, Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Learning Commons @ Perry Library

FACULTY PERSPECTIVES ON FULBRIGHT AWARDS

11/19 Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Learning Commons @ Perry Library

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS & LIABILITIES WITH UNIVERSITY AGREEMENTS

11/21, Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Learning Commons @ Perry Library

[odu.edu/research
/calendar](http://odu.edu/research/calendar)



Endnote Workshops



PERRY LIBRARY ROOM 1306

- OCTOBER 18, 10:30-11:30 AM
- OCTOBER 29, 12:30-1:30 PM

ONLINE

- OCTOBER 21, 5:30-6:30 PM

RSVP to mbridges@odu.edu or abasile@odu.edu

Do you have difficulty putting together research or review papers and wish that there was a program that could simplify citing sources? If so, there's an awesome tool out there called Endnote that has writers like you in mind. Even better is that there will be three Endnote Workshops held later this month that will assist you with using the software and getting the most out of it. Two are offered in person, while one is offered online. To attend, please RSVP to mbridges@odu.edu or abasile@odu.edu.

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THREE MINUTE THESIS (3MT) LAST CALL



Have an interesting project? Is it for your thesis or dissertation work?

Can you sum it up in 3 minutes? If so, the Graduate School invites you to compete in its 3rd annual 3MT, which is an academic competition that challenges graduate students to describe their thesis or dissertation research within 3 minutes for a general audience, with the goal of fostering the importance of communicating research significance to the public.

Prize money and the opportunity to represent ODU at a regional conference are at stake!

ODU's event will be Thursday, November 21 from 5 – 8 p.m. in the University Theatre. Practices and trainings are underway to prepare student competitors.

The last call for students to sign up is October 23.

Contact Dr. Bryan Porter (bporter@odu.edu), Associate Dean of the Graduate School, to learn more and to sign up. We look forward to a great competition!

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SARAH EHLKE (PH.D. PSYCHOLOGY, HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY)



What do you like most about your research or feel will be its largest implication(s)?

My goal is to improve the lives of people. I am naturally a person who asks a lot of questions which really is beneficial for my research. Globally, my research examines the intersection of alcohol use and sexual assault among young women. Given the rise of the #metoo movement and increased attention to the fact that women and men experience unwanted sexual interactions at staggeringly high rates, I feel like my research will benefit many people. Additionally, people can experience serious negative consequences when drinking. I think taking a harm reductions approach to reduce heavy drinking is more realistic than expecting all young people to abstain from alcohol. In general, my lifelong career goal is to serve as an advocate to reduce sexual violence among all people, and reduce the heavy

rates of drinking in order to limit the number of alcohol related consequences someone experiences. To meet both of these goals I think it is important to develop evidence based, scientific, prevention and intervention programs.

Faced with many competing demands on your time, how do you determine your priorities?

This is always a struggle. I usually look at the deadlines of the tasks on my to-do list to prioritize my time. On Sundays I write out what I need to get done and then block off time in my calendar for that week for when I will work on each task. I often change this around throughout the week on my calendar but it helps me to map it out initially. I also do not procrastinate tasks. For example, if something is due on a Friday I try to get it done by Wednesday. There is no better feeling than to cross something off your to-do list. But, it's also important to give yourself time to rest and enjoy life.

If you were given additional money for funding, what would you research, and how?

If I was given more money for funding I would conduct research that involves sending participants text messages several times per day to ask them about their experiences (e.g., stressful and positive experiences), mood, and substance use cravings and use. A person's mood often fluctuates throughout the day based on the experiences that they have and these changes may influence cravings and actual substance use. As we all know, stressful experiences can occur suddenly and it is sometimes difficult to capture the fluctuations of day-to-day events if we only measure these factors once a day. Measuring these changes more frequently may provide us with information about the process of events that may occur that lead up to risky substance use. However, these types of studies can be expensive because we need to be able to compensate people for their time to complete the numerous surveys. But I'd gladly accept any additional funding to conduct this research.

ISBIOTECH: THE WATERSIDE CONFERENCE



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INTRO TO EPORTFOLIO for Graduate Students

THE LEARNING COMMONS ROOM 1313

Online via Zoom: bit.ly/gradePf19



SEPTEMBER 24th at 12:00 PM

OCTOBER 22nd at 3:00 PM

NOVEMBER 12th at 3:00 PM



WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT PROGRAM (WRP)



Seeking a summer internship or full-time employment following graduation? Apply for the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP)!

The WRP helps qualified students and recent graduates with disabilities obtain internships and permanent positions with federal and private employers across the U.S. To learn more, contact:

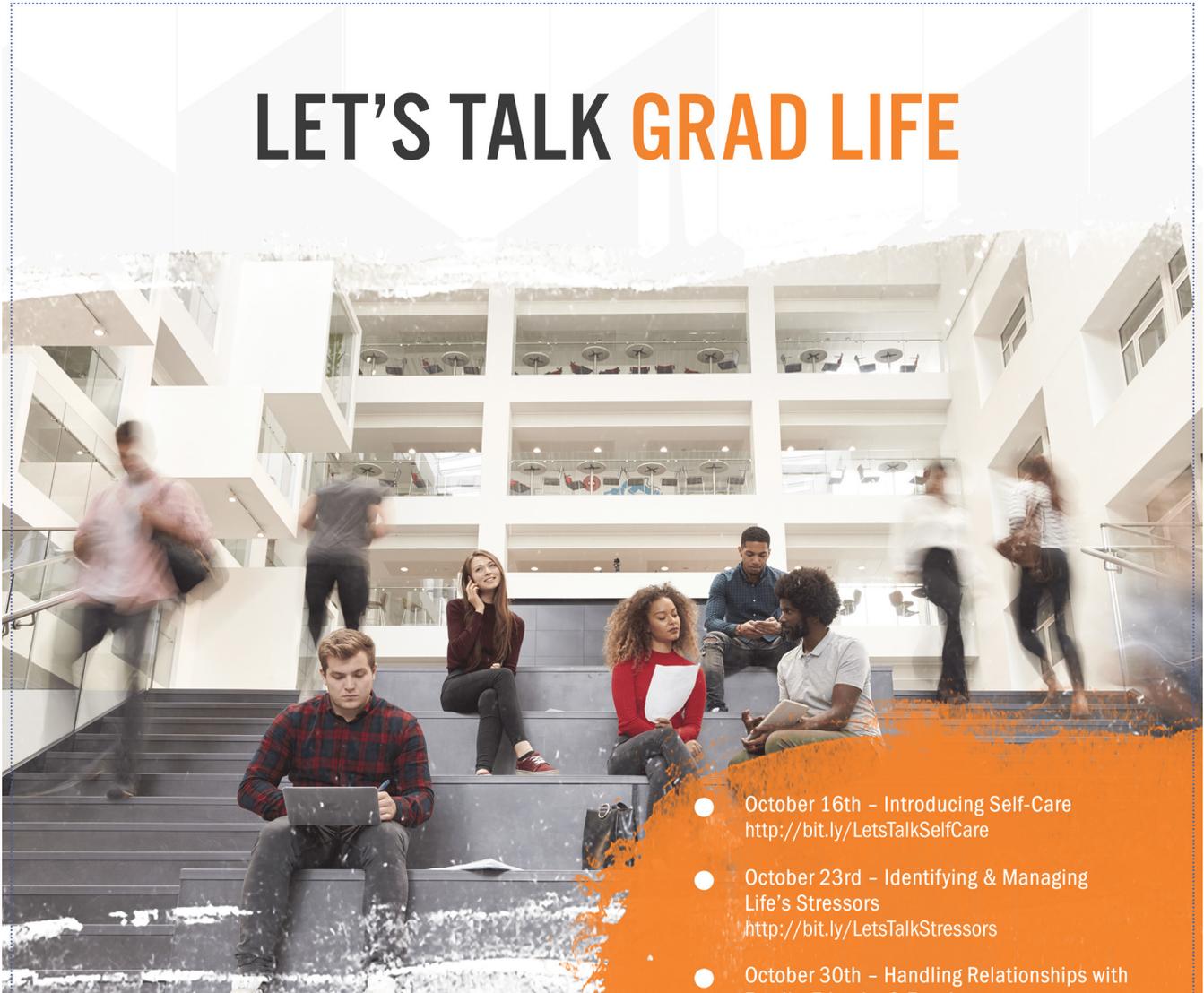
Summer Steelman
WRP Campus Coordinator
Career Development Services
2202 Webb Center
ssteelma@odu.edu
(757) 683-4388



WRP.GOV

odu.edu/graduateschool

LET'S TALK GRAD LIFE



HELPING GRADUATE STUDENTS MASTER THE BALANCING ACT

Time: 5:30PM – 7:00PM
Location: 2100 Monarch Hall
Use the links to RSVP!

Snacks will be provided!
RSVPs limited to 32 students per session.

- October 16th – Introducing Self-Care
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkSelfCare>
- October 23rd – Identifying & Managing Life's Stressors
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkStressors>
- October 30th – Handling Relationships with Family, Friends, & Faculty
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkRelationships>
- November 6th – Resolving Conflicts in their Various Forms
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkConflicts>
- November 13th – Financial Management when You're Broke
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkFinances>
- November 20th – Affordable Healthy Living
<http://bit.ly/LetsTalkHealthyLiving>

CAREER PATHWAYS

Professional development to bridge graduate school and career success

Developing Effective Writing Assignments: How to Design Assignments for Courses You Teach

Learn how to develop writing assignments that help your students learn, while making your job as a teacher easier

- How do you link the writing assignment to course contents and learning objectives?
- How do you build in low stakes assignments and activities to improve student success?
- How can you provide more useful student feedback?

Bring a sample course syllabus (from a class that you're taking or that you would like to teach) to work on

A hands-on interactive workshop led by Remica Bingham-Risher and Wie Yusuf

Friday, November 1, 2019

Noon-2pm in Monarch 2100 (Graduate School Multipurpose Room)

Also available online: bit.ly/CP_zoom

Snacks and drinks will be provided. BRING A FRIEND!

Questions? Contact Dr. Wie Yusuf
Chair, Career Pathways Steering Committee
E-mail: jyusuf@odu.edu Phone: 757-683-4437
Web: <https://sites.wp.odu.edu/careerpathways/>





CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

EFFECTIVE RESUME WRITING WORKSHOPS

Williamsburg Room, Webb Center

SEPTEMBER 17TH • 12:30PM TO 1:30PM

OCTOBER 31ST • 12:30PM TO 1:30PM

NOVEMBER 13TH • 12PM TO 1PM

DECEMBER 5TH • 12:30PM TO 1:30PM

Unable to attend in person? Attend live via WebEx

<http://bit.ly/oducdsonlinefall2019>



The Cyber Security Student Association
would like to invite you to
the 3rd annual

ODU '19 CYBEROPS

Saturday | 10-19-2019

Constant Hall rm 1002
8am - 6pm

Register Here!



Meet potential recruiters

Capture the Flag Competition

MetaCTF Team-based cyber security challenge
No experience needed



Made possible by

Booz | Allen | Hamilton





ODU is an institutional member of the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD).

The NCFDD is a nationally-recognized, independent organization that provides online career development and mentoring resources for faculty, graduate students, and post-doctoral scholars.

NCFDD membership provides a variety of on-demand virtual programs and resources to support your success in the academy.

Sample webinars:

- Every Semester Needs a Plan
- Mastering Academic Time Management
- How to Manage Stress, Rejection and the Haters in Your Midst
- Networking for Introverts (and Extroverts, Too!): How to Make the Most of Your Next Conference
- Daily Writing for Academic Scientists and Engineers
- How to Navigate the Academic Job Market

The 'Monday Motivator' e-mail also provides weekly tips and advice for success.

Join NCFDD for free by claiming your ODU institutional membership!

Sign up information is available here:

<https://www.odu.edu/facultydevelopment/ncfdd>

****Many of the NCFDD webinars will count towards the events requirements of the Preparing Future Faculty Certificate****

ABOUT

Find Graduate School News Online at: www.odu.edu/graduateschool, as well as updates on our Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter pages.

ODU doctoral student, Xavier-Lewis Palmer, compiled and edited this newsletter with help from Dr. Robert Wojtowicz, Dr. Bryan Porter, Missy Barber, Genenieve Conwell, and Courtney Nishnick in the Graduate School.

If you have an idea, event, news, or anything otherwise notable that you would like to share, contact Xavier-Lewis at xpalmer@odu.edu.

