This November, Old Dominion University premiered a production unlike any other. Symptomatic: IRL, directed by Brittney S. Harris and produced by Deborah Wallace, is an ODURep Theatre production that was livestreamed and performed completely remotely. The production explores COVID-19 and the emotional effects and psychological chaos society has experienced because of the virus.

Brittney S. Harris, an established performer, director, alumna, and professor at ODU who created and directed the show, says the inspiration for developing Symptomatic: IRL came from “the need to be creative when we were not only physically in ‘quarantine,’ but feeling creatively stifled and isolated as well.”

Featuring six student actors, the production explored the different perspectives of the virus from “adhering to restrictions versus not believing or enforcing restrictions, conspiracy theories about COVID-19 as it pertains to race, gender, age, location, etc., and contradicting information from ‘experts’ and ‘news sources,’” Harris explains.

The most impressive aspect of the show is that it was developed remotely and performed remotely as well. One of the student actors featured in the production, Frances Calderon, describes how this project is different from any other project she has worked on in the past: “I’ve definitely never acted in a show where my ‘stage’ was my own bedroom. So that was a unique experience for me.”

Brain Jinright, another student actor in the production, felt similarly: “This opportunity is very different but fun for me. It’s different than being on stage connecting with your fellow cast than doing it through a screen. It has taught me to dig down deeper as an actor, because when you are not in full character at times, the camera will tell you.”

During these uncertain times of the pandemic, Harris gives her fellow actors credit in creating this production: “Theatre is rooted in personal intimate interaction - it is a society within itself, a microcosm of society as a whole. Thespians are hyper-alert to nuance in both facial expression and body language, and as a consequence, it is traumatic to distance us, to box us into Zoom screens. Nevertheless, we persisted.”

Symptomatic: IRL was livestreamed as a multimedia production by ODURep. The show premiered November 12-14 at 7:30 p.m. and November 15 at 2 p.m. ODURep is the production arm of ODU’s Department of Communication and Theatre Arts’ Theatre Program.

The goal of ODURep is to give a voice to student and professional artists as they create theatre for the Hampton Roads community.
Kojo Asamoa-Caesar ’08 Running for U.S. House Seat in Oklahoma  
By Philip Walzer

His career choice quickly crystallized. “I came to define my life in terms of the American dream. To me, education is the escalator to the American dream.”

After W&M, he joined Teach for America, which sent him to Tulsa to teach kindergarten. The next year, he taught third grade and was named the school’s teacher of the year.

Asamoa-Caesar went to Denver to serve as a fellow with the Urban Leaders Fellowship. He returned to Tulsa to be the founding principal of an elementary school, then interim executive director of 36 Degrees North, a co-working space for entrepreneurs.

The deficiencies he saw in Oklahoma’s educational system inspired his run for Congress.

“We were constantly bumping up against a wall, not matter how hard we worked,” Asamoa-Caesar said. “I was not looking to run for office, but I had to run to rectify the situation.”

He is the youngest and first Black nominee in his district. Oklahoma is overwhelmingly represented by Republicans, but Asamoa-Caesar said the race is “very, very winnable,” noting that a Democrat upset a Republican House incumbent in Oklahoma City two years ago.

He’s learned a few things on the campaign trail. First, “don’t try to be all things to all people.” Also: “Be wary of the advice you get from political consultants.”

Old Dominion, he said, “has been indispensable to my journey. I got to build my wings there and really fly.

“ODU was a microcosm of the broader world. I learned what it really meant to be a servant leader and I got a chance to make mistakes.”

Read a longer version of this article in the upcoming issue of Monarch Extra at www.odu.edu/monarchmag
She Makes Sure PBS Is Well-Programmed
By Philip Walzer

As a teenager, Sylvia Bugg '92 stood in front of her bedroom mirror, holding a brush as if it were a microphone, and recited her book report. She was practicing for her future career as a TV reporter.

Bugg never realized that dream. Instead, she climbed a lot higher.

Bugg has spent most of her 28-year career behind the scenes in public television. In February, she became vice president of programming for the Public Broadcasting Service. She oversees a content team of seven and approves every new show, from arts to science. “I spend a lot of time screening cuts and programs, looking for those films that resonate, finding that next title we want to produce or commission,” Bugg said.

She’s also sought to strike the right balance for viewers. They crave the latest information. But “we don’t want to drop everything and do nonstop COVID,” said Bugg, who left her Arlington office to work out of her home in Montgomery County, Md., less than a month after she had rejoined PBS. “People are looking for comfort and some sort of normalcy, and we will continue to do that.”

Bugg grew up in Brunswick County, two hours west of Norfolk. “Old Dominion felt like a great choice for me,” she said. “It wasn’t too far from home. It had a good communication program.

“I say to young people, make sure you have that basic foundation. You want to have great writing skills and be a great storyteller. That was something I was grounded in at Old Dominion.” Her first go-round at PBS was from 1993 to 1999. “Each year,” Bugg said, “I was able to advance to the next role,” rising from administrative assistant to associate director of programming. “I worked with filmmakers to get shows packaged and ready for air. I also may be the only person, outside of Ken Burns and his staff, to watch every single frame of his baseball documentary.”

After 13 years at Discovery Communications, Bugg returned to PBS as director of general audience programming. From there, she went to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and came back to PBS this year as vice president. She also is pursuing a doctorate in organizational change and leadership from the University of Southern California.

Bugg is so private, said Barbara Stith ’92, a friend since elementary school, that she kept the new job a secret for a while. When Stith learned the news, she wasn’t surprised.

“I’ve never met anyone as focused and determined as she is,” said Stith, whose husband, Bryant, is an assistant men’s basketball coach at ODU. “She always knew what she wanted. And if she didn’t know how to get where she wanted to go, she knew how to network, talk to people, market herself and learn whatever she needed to learn to get there.”

From an early age, Bugg said, she was taught: “You get a good job. You get an education, and then you give back.” Now, she said, “I think I’m working for a company that does just that.”

Read a longer version of this article in the fall issue of Monarch magazine at www.odu.edu/monarchmag
KUDOS!

DR. ANNEMARIE NAVAR-GILL is officially a tenure track Assistant Professor in the Department: “I am truly thrilled to be able to fully join this department community and continue working with our wonderful students! I’ve felt really at home since arriving last fall, and I’m so happy to be able to stay.”

DR. BRENDAN O’HALLARN has had two articles accepted for publication: “The day the madness died: A case study on crisis communication during the Big Ten Men’s Basketball Tournament;” Co-authors: Matt Blaszka and Craig Morehead of Indiana State University, and Megan Barr of Indiana Sports Corporation in the Journal of Contemporary Athletics (2021); and “The Circle of Unity: The power of symbols in a team sport context;” Co-authors: Craig Morehead of Indiana State University, Mark Slavich of Grand View University (Iowa) and Alicia Cintron of the University of Cincinnati in the Journal of Intercollegiate Sport (2021).

Assistant Professor BRITTNEY S. HARRIS, creator and director of Symptomatic: IRL, has been awarded the Association of Theatre Movement Educators (ATME) Innovation Fellowship for her solo piece Being B.A.D.

HARRIS also will be presenting a conference paper, “Breathing Life into the Black and White: Performing Sandra Bland” accepted into the “Black Girl Banned: Rebellion and Radical Black Girlhood in Literature” panel for the 92nd Annual South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA) in November 2020.

Share your accomplishments HERE!

PRSSA Students Attend Virtual International Conference

By Emma Hummer

The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic prevented members of Old Dominion University’s public relations student organization, ODU PRSSA, from enjoying the atmosphere in the nation’s country music capital, Nashville. The annual conference was held in a virtual format from Oct. 26-29.

However, eight ODU PRSSA students made the most of their virtual conference, making connections and learning from leading professionals.

Junior Brittney Crosby attended several sessions during the conference. But the moment she felt left the most significant impact on her was when she attended the ‘Champions for PRSSA Chat.’ “I was able to speak one-on-one for over an hour with a PR professional who’s seen it all,” Crosby said, “That quality time while we video chatted was definitely a perk of the virtual conference format.”

Those opportunities for connection that might have been more challenging at a crowded live conference were among the unexpected benefits of attending the conference virtually, said ODU PRSSA faculty adviser Brendan O’Hallarn. “Of course, the students who attended would love to have experienced Nashville in person. But the virtual format meant that more students could attend the conference. And students really made the most of the experience.”

A total of eight students attended the virtual conference: Matty Madden, Emma Hummer, Diana Muia, Katie Maguire, Brittney Crosby, Alyssa Goden, Tiara Batchelor and Jahan Cannon.

Madden, a senior and this year’s ODU PRSSA president, felt he gained a lot of valuable information from the speakers he had the opportunity to listen to. The session that was most significant to Madden was, “Lend me your ears, leap to your feet,” by Eric Schnure. “Seeing Eric Schnure, who wrote some of former Vice President Al Gore’s speeches, was really interesting for me. I’m not particularly skilled in speechwriting, so it gave me some very useful insight into how to make my speeches more engaging.”

Madden raved about how seamlessly the event transitioned to a virtual format. “The online event hall they (PRSSA) built for the event was amazing, I was stunned at the quality of everything and how well it all worked.”

Despite the very obvious change to this year’s format brought about by COVID-19, the four-day conference left members of the ODU delegation inspired and energized. “This experience taught me a lot about the industry, making connections and making adjustments for any situation,” said junior Alyssa Goden, “I appreciate PRSA for continuing its event despite the pandemic and allowing us all to enjoy it.”
Students enrolled in asynchronous online classes should be given a minimum of a 24-hour window to complete the final exam. You can impose a time limit from the moment they begin the exam, but you cannot schedule the exam from 2-4 PM. Be as clear as possible about these differences.

The Student Handbook states that a student can petition the Dean to request alternate date for an exam if they have three or more exams scheduled during a 24-hour period. The Dean is encouraging departments to make certain exams are sufficiently spaced out.

### 2020 Graduation Ceremonies

Throughout the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, we have recognized what a bittersweet time this is for our 2020 graduating class. We had hoped to celebrate in person with May and December graduates during commencement ceremonies that had been scheduled for December. However, due to the COVID-19 global health pandemic, as well as gathering limitations mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia, we will not be able to host the kind of ceremonies we had planned.

All graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2020 are being rescheduled for April 23-24, 2021.

Spring 2020 graduation ceremony, April 23, 2021
Fall 2020 graduation ceremony, April 24, 2021

Commencement details, including re-registration and schedule of events with ceremony times and locations, will be announced in the coming months to allow students and their families time to plan.

---

**NOTE: WINTER SESSION**

Classes will now begin December 29 and end on January 15.

The spring semester begins on January 19.

---

**SPRING 2021 COURSES** for promotion to students can be found here. SHARE!
Please encourage your students to join us for a listening forum on communicating and performing anti-racism to share thoughts on how the Department can more actively engage in communicating and embodying anti-racism in our curriculum and classrooms, co-curricular activities, events, and community outreach.

Thursday, Nov. 19 @ 6:30pm (EST)
https://odu.zoom.us/j/94917207578

The listening forum is intended for students in our programs to share their thoughts and feelings about how our department might better promote anti-discrimination and model anti-racism. On the faculty side, only representatives from the diversity committee will attend the listening forum, but a summary of what students shared will be made available to our entire community. Our goal is to create a safe and well-balanced space for students to share and not overwhelm attendees with a large representation of faculty. The diversity committee is comprised of representatives from each of our department’s core areas.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION & THEATRE ARTS
SPRING/SUMMER 2021
INTERNSHIP INFO SESSION

Tuesday, November 17th, 12:30-1:30pm ET on Zoom

Communication internships offer practical work experience in a particular occupation to people who are new to the field. Internships strengthen resumes by giving students visible work experience and providing older job hunters with needed credentials to change careers.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a Major or Minor in Communication & Theatre Arts.
- Students must be at junior or senior level, have a GPA of 2.0 or higher, and have taken 12 credits within our department.
- Depending upon their concentration, other prerequisites must be met, in order to ensure the student is ready for internship.

CONTACT

Other opportunities available at Career4Monarchs. Please contact Ms. Alison Lietzenmayer for internship related questions (alietzen@odu.edu). Need resume help? Reach out to ODU’s Career Development Services!

Learn more about Senior Experience & Internships in Communication: www.oducommseniorexperience.com/
We are sickened by the recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and countless other African Americans in this country by police and vigilantes, and we know that we need to confront these injustices, challenge systemic racism, and find more effective ways to teach and practice anti-racism.

This listening forum is for our students to share with us and with one another their thoughts about how we can communicate and perform anti-racism as individuals and as a society, in our classes and in our communities.

We do not have any lessons to impart, but we know that there are many lessons for us to learn from you. We want to offer a space where we can all listen to each other, but also one that generates ideas about how we communicate and perform anti-racism that we can make certain are embedded into our classes and into our departmental culture.

Our hope is to create a plan for being accountable to our students.

Facilitator: Brittney Harris, M.F.A.

LOGIN TO JOIN
https://odu.zoom.us/j/94917207578

THURSDAY
NOV. 19, 2020
6:30 PM (EST)
Learning Center & TRiO Programs

A centralized learning hub (physical & virtual) that provides students with opportunities to practice and enhance their learning.

Students may meet with an academic coach or mentor to improve self-management and learning skills, request a custom workshop for their small group, access one of our CORE resources, or get connected with other support services.

**ACADEMIC COACHING**
Meet one-on-one with an Academic Coach (peer or professional) for academic skills help.
odu.edu/chip/learning-center/academic-coaching

**ACADEMIC TIPS**
Access a collection of academic tips & resources (self-paced handouts, toolkits, videos) to help you succeed.
odu.edu/chip/learning-center/academic-tips

**TUTORING CENTRAL**
Get connected to tutoring centers across campus including online tutoring from Tutor.com.
odu.edu/success/academic/tutoring

**MENTORING CENTRAL**
Get connected to mentoring programs across campus, including mentoring for first-generation students.
odu.edu/success/academic/mentoring

**TRiO - STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**
Offers weekly one-on-one tutoring, academic coaching, mentoring, workshops, and financial literacy education for eligible students (first-gen, low income, and/or documented disability).
odu.edu/sss

**TRiO - UPWARD BOUND**
Learn more about how ODU supports college-bound high school students in the area.
odu.edu/partnerships/community/programs/upwardbound

**FACULTY CORNER**
Refer your students to an Academic Coach or embed one in your course: Academic coaches can help students in areas like study skills, time management, organization, etc.

Request an Academic Workshop: Peer academic coaches are available to facilitate workshops by request and work specifically with your classes.

Refer your first-gen student to a peer or faculty mentor: ODU F1RST peer or faculty mentors are available to help your first-gen students pursue their academic and career goals.

Request custom training: Learning Center staff can provide tutor/mentor training for your specific tutoring or mentoring programs. Training can be custom-designed or based on College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) certification requirements.

Request a Summer ROPES Experience: Readiness Opportunities for Personal and Educational Success (ROPES) experiences support students in their transition to and through college. Students can meet other students, participate in engagement activities, and talk to faculty/staff committed to their success.

Access “The Loop” - the official newsletter of the Learning Center - for more news & information.
### COURSE-SPECIFIC TUTORING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Learning Center</th>
<th>Math Lab</th>
<th>Stat Lab</th>
<th>Math &amp; Science Resource Center - Math (MSRC-Math)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual language tutoring &amp; language resources</td>
<td>Virtual sessions available for MATH 211, 212 &amp; 312&lt;br&gt;Dragas 2114&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/math/lab</td>
<td>Virtual sessions available for STAT 130 AND STAT 330&lt;br&gt;Dragas 2103&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/math/lab</td>
<td>Virtual tutoring for MATH 101-205; CS 150, 170, 250 &amp; 270; PSYC 317&lt;br&gt;Virtual &amp; by appointment for MATH 302, 335; PSYC 317&lt;br&gt;Learning Commons 1312&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/sci/msrc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batten Arts &amp; Letters 3061&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/languagelearningcenter</td>
<td><strong>MATH/HELP</strong>&lt;br&gt;Math Course Help Directory of math and stat course tutoring resources&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/math/help</td>
<td><strong>Math &amp; Science Resource Center - Chemistry (MSRC-Chem)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Virtual tutoring for CHEM 103-213&lt;br&gt;Oceanography 146&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/sci/msrc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physics Learning Center</strong>&lt;br&gt;Virtual tutoring for Physics courses</td>
<td><strong>Math &amp; Science Resource Center - Math (MSRC-Chem)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Virtual tutoring for CHEM 103-213&lt;br&gt;Oceanography 146&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/sci/msrc</td>
<td><strong>Math &amp; Science Resource Center - Chemistry (MSRC-Chem)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Virtual tutoring for CHEM 103-213&lt;br&gt;Oceanography 146&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/sci/msrc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences Building - 2nd floor atrium&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/physics/students/learning-center</td>
<td><strong>Math &amp; Science Resource Center - Math (MSRC-Math)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Virtual tutoring for MATH 101-205; CS 150, 170, 250 &amp; 270; PSYC 317&lt;br&gt;Virtual &amp; by appointment for MATH 302, 335; PSYC 317&lt;br&gt;Learning Commons 1312&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/sci/msrc</td>
<td><strong>Math &amp; Science Resource Center - Chemistry (MSRC-Chem)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Virtual tutoring for CHEM 103-213&lt;br&gt;Oceanography 146&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/sci/msrc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing Center (Virginia Beach)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Virtual tutoring for writing assignments in all courses&lt;br&gt;VB Higher Ed Center 146&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/vabeach/students/writingcenter</td>
<td><strong>Writing Center</strong>&lt;br&gt;Virtual tutoring for writing assignments in all courses&lt;br&gt;Learning Commons 1208&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/alcenters/writingcenter</td>
<td><strong>Writing Center (Virginia Beach)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Virtual tutoring for writing assignments in all courses&lt;br&gt;VB Higher Ed Center 146&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/vabeach/students/writingcenter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### E-PORTFOLIO & WRITING TUTORING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ePortfolio Studio</th>
<th>Writing Center</th>
<th>Writing Center (Virginia Beach)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual tutoring for ePortfolio &amp; digital assignments&lt;br&gt;Learning Commons 1313&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/chip/eportfolio</td>
<td>Virtual tutoring for writing assignments in all courses&lt;br&gt;Learning Commons 1208&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/alcenters/writingcenter</td>
<td>Virtual tutoring for writing assignments in all courses&lt;br&gt;VB Higher Ed Center 146&lt;br&gt;odu.edu/vabeach/students/writingcenter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TUTOR.COM

|------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
Updates from the Senior Experience/Internship

Check out current opportunities!
More are being added every week!
Check out the website and make sure to update and review your profile with Career4Monarchs.

FAST FACTS

- Learn more on our website
- Internship Criteria
- Getting Started-Application

Students enrolling in COMM 368, THEA 365, THEA 368, or DANC 368 must be Juniors or Seniors in good academic standing (GPA of 2.0 or higher), be a declared major or minor, have successfully completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in the Department of Communication & Theatre Arts, and have the permission of the Internship Director. Internships are not eligible as an Option D course for other majors.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT
Alison Lietzenmayer
alietzen@odu.edu
www.oducommseniorexperience.com/
What counts as an internship?

To qualify as an internship appropriate to the Communication major, the internship must provide supervised professional work experience in a corporate, research, or educational setting, where there is opportunity to apply and further develop knowledge and skills acquired in the student’s Communication concentration’s course work.

The conditions of an internship should be established between the employer and student before he or she reports. These include the nature of the internship, supervisory arrangements, specific responsibilities of the intern, compensation (if any), and work schedules.

Employers must provide a safe environment in which students can work and the materials that students need to complete their assignments (a desk, computer, etc.). Once the internship begins, employers should review the students’ work with them regularly and treat them as professionals.

Why do an Internship?

from Prof. Lietzenmayer

Internships offer practical work experience in a particular occupation to people who are new to the field. Internships strengthen resumes by giving students visible work experience and providing older job hunters with needed credentials to change careers.

To earn academic credit for an internship, students take COMM/THEA/DANC 368 during the semester of their internships. 368 is available every semester. Applications to take the course must be approved by the internship coordinator. It is strongly recommended that students go over this website thoroughly to set themselves up for success.