The share of Americans who say racism is a "big problem" in society has increased 8% to 58% in the past two years - and has roughly doubled since 2011, according to the Pew Research Foundation. A new, community-wide reading program is aiming to address that issue in Hampton Roads.

Next year, Old Dominion University Libraries and the ODU Darden College of Education, in partnership with public libraries and community partners across Hampton Roads, will encourage all residents to read Claudia Rankine’s "Citizen: An American Lyric” through innovative programs, events, book discussions, and more.

Dr. Lea Lee, a professor in the Darden College of Education, and University Librarian Dr. George Fowler have spent the past eighteen months collaborating with a committee of people and organizations across Hampton Roads to apply for a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read grant based on the powerful work "Citizen: An American Lyric" by poet Claudia Rankine. The committee was made up of representatives from the public library systems of Chesapeake, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Poquoson, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach, as well as community partners The Muse Writer's Center, the Asian American Pacific Heritage Association, and the Hampton Roads YMCA.

The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest that has been sponsoring community reading programs nationwide since 2006. Since 2006, the NEA has funded more than 1,400 Big Read programs, providing more than $19 million in grants to organizations nationwide.

"There is a need in the Hampton Roads area, as in most areas throughout the world, for a project like the Big Read. Through the unique and vital partnerships we have formed with a variety of community groups, individuals, ODU departments, WHRO, and..."
Summer is here and, with it, operations transform in the Old Dominion University Libraries. When student and faculty traffic slows to a trickle, we get a chance to think strategically. It’s a great opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments in the last academic year, and what we want to accomplish in the coming academic year.

In my spare time, I’ve been refining the vision I have for the ODU Libraries. Being able to articulate this vision is essential to being able to align our efforts in to pursue it. My vision for ODU Libraries is that we will provoke intersubjective understanding as a crossroads community.

So what does that mean? We incite learners to interact with information, particularly that with which they may disagree, in order to develop a shared understanding. If we consider this information interaction as the crossroads, then we are the community established around it, and this community extends beyond the physical boundaries of the library and the programmatic expertise of library personnel. Our traditional roles around access to information are a critical cornerstone to this vision. We also need strong relationships across ODU and in the broader community to inspire learning in all its styles and with all forms of information – be it another person, an information resource, self-reflection, or individual or collaborative creation.

We are uniquely positioned to fill this role at ODU and in the greater Hampton Roads region, and we are taking steps to get there. We recently completed a reorganization that enables us to be more agile and effective in meeting needs with existing resources. We are also partnering with faculty at ODU as well as libraries and organizations throughout Hampton Roads on a National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest Big Read grant that is bringing “Citizen: An American Lyric” to Hampton Roads. For more information on what else we’ve been up to, check out page 7.

Sincerely,
George
George J Fowler, MLS, Ph.D.
g Fowler@odu.edu, 757-683-4141

Every summer, I look for a big book to read. In Southeast Kansas, where I grew up, summer was when a person could get some real reading done. There certainly were other things to do around the farm. But my main job, thankfully, was to sit in a truck waiting for my father—of blessed memory—to signal from his tractor or combine that he needed something: “duck” tape, bailing wire, a hammer, iced tea, a sandwich. In the meantime, I could read. Usually something big, since I had three months to fill.

This summer, I’m reading another big book, Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen: An American Lyric*, which will be the focus of a Hampton Roads community reading program and the springboard for a variety of Hampton Roads events in 18-19. *Citizen: An American Lyric* is not a big book if measured by weight. But *Citizen* is a big book because, just as I found with *Searching for Lost Time* and *Ulysses*, I want to read it aloud:

> When you are alone and too tired even to turn on any of your devices, you let yourself linger in a past stacked among your pillows. Usually you are nestled under blankets and the house is empty. Sometimes the moon is missing and beyond the windows the low, gray ceiling seems approachable. Its dark light dims in degrees depending on the density of clouds and you fall back into that which gets reconstructed as metaphor. (5)

Look for the “I.” It’s there, but curiously not—at least for now—in the memory of the speaker.

Earlier this month, the Friends of the Libraries hosted the Big Read’s kick-off event, honoring those in the community who are making NEA Big Read: Hampton Roads possible. NEA Big Read: Hampton Roads is funded through an NEA Big Read Grant received by Old Dominion University Libraries and the ODU Darden College of Education.

The ODU Friends of the Libraries has purchased copies of the book, which are available at the Perry Libraries. So, I invite our membership to borrow *Citizen: An American Lyric* from the ODU Libraries this summer and join the us in our upcoming Big Read events.

Best,
David Metzger
President, ODU Friends of the Libraries
every public library system in the Hampton Roads region, we look forward to many exciting, thought provoking, and highly beneficial Big Read events," said Dr. Lee.

According to the publisher, "Citizen" is an innovative work of poetry, prose, and visual images that recounts mounting racial aggressions in ongoing encounters in twenty-first-century daily life and in the media. Published in 2014, "Citizen" was one of the first nationally published pieces to introduce the concept of microaggressions, or small instances of racism in everyday encounters. The book has won many awards, including the National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry, the Forward Prize for Best Collection (UK), the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in Poetry, and the PEN Open Book Award.

"Claudia Rankine's 'Citizen' is a powerful book that speaks to the lived experiences of many in Hampton Roads and strongly aligns with ODU's ongoing commitment to equality and diversity. We're excited to bring the region together to discuss and experi-
When so much digital information is accessible at our fingertips, how can history and archives still be useful to students and faculty?

"Archives are more relevant now than ever because there is so much information online that needs to be organized," said Steve Bookman, Old Dominion University's archivist.

Archivists are responsible for collecting, organizing, preserving and maintaining items of enduring value. And now that society has gone digital, archivists are the ones who strategize uploading history online, sort through internet content and use metadata to assign search terms to historical information.

At Old Dominion, all items of enduring value are retained in the Special Collections and University Archives Department (SCUA), housed in Perry Library. The Special Collections Department preserves items related to the region, state and country, while the University Archives serves as the institutional memory of ODU.

SCUA was established in 1974 as a central location for preserving information outlining the history of the university. Items range from photographs of student life in the 1980s to blueprints chronicling the building of the Webb Center.

"Nowhere else has ODU's history. There are a lot of universities in the world, but there is only one ODU," Bookman said.
In addition to housing ODU’s history, SCUA collects the region’s histories. It includes collections about the arts from the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the Virginia Opera and the Virginia Stage Company, military histories, information on the desegregation of Virginia schools and the LGBTQ communities of Hampton Roads.

According to Jessica Ritchie, head of Special Collections and University Archives, "archives are tools for justice. Right now, there is a lot of interest in going back and documenting civil rights violations and human rights violations. Archival data helps tell the real story of what happened in the past. They prevent the erasure of painful histories and shed light on marginalized groups telling their stories."

To continue to share these histories and tell these stories, SCUA has made the shift to digital. It is collaborating with the Libraries' Digital Initiatives Team to digitize items to make them available in the Digital Collections, an online repository of rare and unique images, documents and oral histories from the archives, special collections and other campus units.

Recently, all the available issues of Our Own: Community Press (Norfolk’s oldest gay and lesbian newspaper) were digitized. SCUA also is working on a digital collection about the historical Ocean View Amusement Park, which includes memories of Seaview Beach, the city's only beach open to blacks during segregation.

The SCUA team strives to collect items that have research value to both student and faculty academic projects.

"It is important to us that our students and our faculty are using these collections to create original research, writing books, articles and other projects," Ritchie said.

For more information on what is available in the Special Collections and University Archives, visit: http://www.odu.edu/library/special-collections or stop by the archives Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the third floor of Perry Library. No appointment is necessary.
Congratulations Employees of the Year!

This past year, the Old Dominion University Libraries embarked on a full-scale staff reorganization and the staff throughout the Libraries did an amazing job responding to the challenges presented. Individuals often found themselves adjusting to new duties, functions and colleagues. The number of people that went above and beyond made picking a Classified Staff Member of the Year and Librarian/Faculty Administrator of the Year a difficult job. Nonetheless, the two people who were ultimately recognized distinguished themselves.

The 2018 Librarian/Faculty Administrator of the Year is University Archivist Steve Bookman. Throughout the year, Steve continued to make previously hidden collections more accessible to researchers by updating online databases, incorporating new technologies, and improving accessioning practices. He also took the initiative to increase engagement with the University Archives through the Libraries’ and University’s communications programs. In addition to exceeding expectations accomplishing his performance goals, Steve co-wrote, published, and promoted a book on ODU History.

“Steve makes the University Archives accessible and fun for our alumni. I have enjoyed working with him over the past few years to write the “Ask the Archivist” piece for our monthly alumni newsletter, to promote the history of the University on social media platforms and to coordinate visits for our alumni to the library. He is a tremendous asset to the Libraries team and, indirectly, ours as well,” said Kristyn Danson, Director of Constituent Relations for the ODU Alumni Association.

The 2018 Classified Staff Member of the Year is Lynn Litherland, the technology trainer and support specialist in the Libraries Systems Department. Lynn is known throughout the Libraries for her onboarding trainings, personalized to each employee, and additional technology trainings including Excel. This year, she was working two jobs in the Systems Department due to an open desktop support position, but she never let that impact her impeccable customer service.

“Despite many challenges, she is always responsive, patient, and conscientious. Moreover, she has an engaging and wonderful personality that makes working with her a pleasure,” said Rob Tench, Acquisitions & Resources Fulfillment Librarian.
ODU Libraries Looks Forward

A revitalized mission. A successful reorganization. New employees that are energized and excited. The Old Dominion University Libraries have what it takes to make the next year a year to remember.

The Libraries have been laying the groundwork for this exciting year for a while. Last year, the reorganization of the entire University Libraries staff began and, now, is in the final stages. This reorganization places staff strategically to encourage efficiency, staff cooperation, and knowledge-sharing to better support the ODU and Hampton Roads community.

One staff member making a difference in the ODU Community is Lucy Rush, Instruction Librarian. Rush is working hard to design and implement ways to fulfill the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia information literacy core competency.

This year also will bring some space changes to the Libraries to create more attractive, flexible, and responsive space. With the successful consolidation of the Help Desk and the Circulation desk, space was made for a new study room which will open on August 31. Four thousand square feet of space will be opened up later this fall and students will be asked to weigh in on the best use for that space.

The Libraries is also investigating nontraditional, more sustainable ways to acquire information resources. The Libraries started a pilot program late last year, called DDA for print books, enabling user to select print books that they need for their academic study or research. These books are not selected by librarians or faculty representatives but by users at the time of need.

Another non-traditional acquisitions mode the Libraries have adopted is to actively provide access to Open Access books and journals. As more and more library materials become available in the OA mode, such materials are of great value for our academic and research programs.

The Libraries also successfully applied to become to a Federal Depository Library Program Center of Excellence. Now we will specialize in housing the records for the Navy and NOAA, collections that will undoubtedly support the ground-breaking work on sea level rise at ODU.

Finally, the Libraries will work on building stronger relationships across ODU and in the broader community, including our valued Friends, to inspire learning in all its styles and with all forms of information – be it another person, an information resource, self-reflection, or individual or collaborative creation.
Become a Friend of the Libraries!

Encourage your friends to support the Old Dominion University Libraries! Share this membership form with them and they can mail it with payment to the address indicated below; or you may bring it to the Circulation Desk in the Patricia W. and J. Douglas Perry Library for immediate membership. Membership also makes an excellent holiday gift! For more information, please call Carrie Anderson at 757-683-4146, or e-mail at c3anders@odu.edu

Membership Information

Name ___________________________________________ E-mail ________________________________

Address

(street) (city) (state) (zip code)

Daytime Phone ___________________________ Evening Phone ___________________________

Business Address

(business name) (street address) (city) (state) (zip code)

For Sponsor Membership, name(s) of additional borrower(s) ______________________________________

Gift Categories (Borrowing privileges are offered as a benefit of membership):

☐ Basic $50/year ☐ Sponsor $100/year

Please mail membership form and payment to: Friends of the Libraries / Old Dominion University / Norfolk VA 23529-0256